Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Algeria

Islamic Salvation Front Threatens Jihad

LD1504223591 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] In Tlemcen, Abbasi Madani says that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will participate in the legislative elections unless conditions, including the holding of presidential elections, are met. A report on this subject was compiled by our correspondent in Tlemcen:

We will not enter the legislative elections unless the conditions which we have been demanding are realized. These demands include holding prearranged presidential elections. The president will have to announce these elections as he announced the legislative elections [words indistinct], the FIS official spokesman Dr. Abbasi Madani announced yesterday at a rally which he chaired in Tlemcen. At this rally, Dr. Abbasi revealed to his militants and well-wishers the various obstacles facing the FSI, starting with the municipalities.

Despite this, the FIS official spokesman said: We are continuing to realize our goal, which includes building an Algerian Islamic state whose source is the holy Koran—a state in which the governing is not for power or wealth. The FSI stand has become clear today and if these demands are not realized then there will a (?jihad), the official FIS spokesman says, not a jihad of the individual, as some are claiming. The jihad which we will wage will be the jihad of all the Algerian people beginning, as he says, with the number one item of the FSI—the strike—not the general strike of the Algerian Workers General Union and the new agent who the authorities placed to be at its service; a strike that will be political and enlightened and in the form of a popular referendum, which will compel the authority to submit.

In this connection, he added: The FIS does not and will not tolerate the spilling of any blood, as we do not want this to happen, Abbasi Madani said.

Further on FIS Threat

LD1504202391 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Excerpt] In Algeria, tension is heating up in the election campaign as the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] makes threats against the Army and President Bendjedid. Ab[illegible]Madani talks about jihad. Here is Anne Deseize:

[Deseize] Never before has the FIS been so violent in its statements about the regime. It is a real call for a civil war that Abassi Madani has made. Concerning the general strike which the religious party still intends to call after the end of Ramadan, that is in a few days, Abassi Madai threatened to react against any Army intervention against this strike which, he says, will be legal. If the Army comes into the streets, he said, we will fight. If a single drop of blood is shed, I swear by God that we will fight them to the end. [passage omitted]

FLN Favors Coalition Government

LD1504213291 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] General elections: The National Liberation Front [FLN] is in favor of a coalition government after the general elections. This is a statement of FLN Secretary General Mr. Mehri quoted by the daily ESSALAM. Mr. Mehri has also stressed that the FLN will call for the formation of a coalition government even if it wins a majority in the future National Assembly. Mr Mehri also said he is ready for a face-to-face television debate with Islamic Salvation Front spokesman, Mr. Abassi Madani.

Egypt

Commentary Discusses Middle East Solutions

NC1404163691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Still a Long Way To Go for a Settlement"]

[Text] There has been some political activity concerning the Middle East crisis for the past few days. Several meetings took place between the various parties concerned with the crisis. U.S. Secretary of State Baker toured the region twice to discuss the many aspects of the crisis.

In order to keep the picture clear with its many details that have accumulated in the search for a solution, we will concentrate on the basic outlines that are being debated and advocated by the various sides.

Two methods are now being proposed as a framework for action. One is a regional conference for peace between an Israeli delegation and an Arab one, representing more than one country, in the presence of the United States. The purpose of that conference would be to draw up a general visualization of the crisis. Then each country would work separately to implement the details. The idea of the regional conference was tabled recently and is still vague. Israel had advocated that idea in the past.

A second method is an international conference for peace. All parties, with the exception of Israel, were interested in that idea; but the United States was less enthusiastic than other parties. Many had thought this idea was going to be implemented following the stand taken by President Bush concerning the settlement, which is based on the principle of exchanging land for peace and the Palestinian people's attainment of their legitimate political rights.

What should remain clear is that the essential conflict is not about the framework in which the crisis is to be settled. The conflict is a genuine one that lies in the clash between the positions taken by the sides of the crisis. For example, since the beginning of the Middle East peace

process, Israel has not shown any true desire to take one step toward settling the Palestinian issue or withdrawing its forces from the Arab occupied territories. Israel has a thousand arguments to support its rejection of a peace that is based on justice and international law. It is Israel's ambiguous attitude about a solution that makes the Israeli Government focus on the framework in which a method of solution is to be tackled. There is no doubt that a great deal of time has been wasted in putting the cart before the horse. It is common sense that the Israeli Government should make its position clear on the withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the rights of the Palestinian people. Once this position is stated unequivocally, it would be easy to determine the method and venue of the dialogue and the participating delegations. It should not take us years to decide whether to hold an international or a regional peace conference.

When the concerned parties recently initiated efforts, and U.S. Secretary of State Baker met the leaders of Egypt, Syria, Israel, and Jordan, intensive talks took place concerning the nature of the conference, Palestinian participation, and the exchange of land for peace. There is nothing new about these issues. These are old issues that are discussed from time to time as a reminder that some effort is being made in the Middle East peace process.

We believe that now is not the time to claim that a solution to the Middle East crisis is around the corner. This is true for a number of reasons, which place temporary obstacles on the road to peace. The first of these obstacles is that the PLO, having associated itself with Saddam's aggression, no longer has the same vitality and approval that it had after the Palestinian National Assembly's resolutions in Algiers. It will take some time before the dust settles around the PLO's Arab and international standing.

A second obstacle is that Israel, having come under Iraq's missile shelling and having cooperated with the U.S. demand not to respond to the Iraqi aggression, has won considerable European and U.S. sympathy. Thus, any pressure on Israel concerning the Middle East crisis requires tact and time.

A third obstacle is that Saddam Husayn has, in a cheap political gimmick, advocated linkage between the Palestinian and Gulf issues. We believe that some international parties will not hasten to find any solution to the Palestinian issue, even if that solution were possible, so as not to give some sections of Arab public opinion the impression that Saddam Husayn has succeeded in pushing the Palestinian issue toward solution and that his policies led to that political victory.

Therefore, the current moves and dialogue will go on for some time, until the Israeli elections and then the U.S. presidential elections take place. After that, we will again return to debating the questions of settlement and solution, of time and place, and of who will be the members of the delegations.

Editorial Views Israel's Rejection of Conference

NC1604082591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 16 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] An AL-AKHBAR editorial comments on Israel's rejection of an international conference. It says: If Israel had any legal or legitimate title to the occupied Palestinian territories, it would not reject any opportunity to discuss this issue at the negotiating table with any other party and it would not continue to oppose every attempt to convene an international conference under UN auspices to settle the problems that have marred Middle East peace and resulted in the eruption of four wars in 43 years.

The paper adds: Israel's insistence on rejecting every offer to participate in an international conference to solve its conflicts with the Arab countries—chiefly the issue of the Palestinian people, the majority of whom have been living in exile for nearly half a century while the remainder suffer under the yoke of a brutal occupation that does not hesitate to commit any crime to impose its control and assure its continued presence—proceeds from its full understanding that its continued occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, the Syrian Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon lacks any legal validity by any international standard. This position cannot be defended before any legal body because it is backed only by tyrannical force. Israel realizes that any negotiations conducted under the auspices of the United Nations and international law will prove the invalidity of its claims to every inch of Arab territory it occupies by force.

Egyptians, Iraqis Arrested on Terrorist Charges

NC1404092691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2149 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said today that security forces arrested two Iraqi intelligence officers sent by the Iraqi regime to Egypt to carry out acts of sabotage and terrorism in collaboration with the Iraqi Ba'th party cells in Egypt.

The minister said that three members of these cells were arrested, including one woman named Jamalat Tadrus from al-Fayyum governorate, whose husband was a prominent member of the Iraqi Ba'th party. She took over responsibility for the organization following her husband's death, he added.

The second person is Mahmud Abu-al-Ma'ati from Zifta in the delta. The third person is from Cairo. The three prisoners are currently being interrogated.

In statements to correspondents, the interior minister said U.S.$38,300 was seized from the culprits, who confessed that the Iraqi regime gave them this money to carry out their terrorist schemes in Egypt.

He added that the members of the Iraqi Ba'th organization in Egypt confessed that Ahmad al-Sufi, an Iraqi national from the Ba'th Party, recruited them and entrusted them with specific missions to carry out previously drawn up plans. The weapons and explosives for carrying out these Iraqi terrorist schemes in Egypt were provided for them. He said that the number of Egyptians accused in cases of Iraqi sabotage and terrorism imprisoned by the prosecution has now reached 74.

Concluding his statements, the interior minister stressed that the security organs are continuing their efforts to safeguard all entry points from attempts to infiltrate terrorist elements into Egypt.

Mubarak Urged To Discontinue Emergency Law

PM1204115191 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Text of undated "Memorandum" to President Mubarak from "leaders of the Egyptian al-WAFD, Labor, Liberal Parties, and National Progressive Unionist Grouping"]

[Text] Since October 1981, the country has been living under the emergency law. The opposition has on many occasions warned about the danger of continuing the enforcement of that law to public freedoms and citizens' basic rights. It demanded that that law be enforced no longer, especially during the 1984, 1987, and 1990 elections. The government, however, persisted in extending the enforcement of the law year after year. Then it extended it from 1988 for three successive years. The parties signing this memorandum believe it necessary to point out the harm and the risks inherent in the government's persistent extension of the enforcement of the emergency law—harm and risks about which we have warned since the law was promulgated. The emergency law was originally introduced for special and limited exceptional cases, as stipulated in the Constitution and the law. The legislator's aim was not for that law to turn into a permanent law that obstructs ordinary laws introduced to protect citizens' freedom and security. No state in the world has lived under an emergency law for ten years while its government continued to claim adherence to democracy and veneration of human rights. If the government's justification for extending the enforcement of that law is safeguarding security and stability, then the continuation of the enforcement of that emergency law is in itself a declaration of instability and evidence of the government's failure to safeguard security and stability. Furthermore, the objective of declaring the state of emergency has not been achieved: The law has never prevented—either before or after the revolution, or since you took office—the occurrence of assassinations and violent clashes that claimed the lives of some public figures, and, in fact, hundreds of citizens and policemen. The state of emergency cannot be extended indefinitely merely because of the assassination of a political figure. That measure is in conflict with democracy, which specifies strict rules and specific cases for declaring a state of emergency. No democratic state has ever declared a state of emergency even for one day, whatever the incidents. We have before us the example of the assassination of President Kennedy, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and others in other states.

Mr. President: If Egypt aspires to true democracy and true stability, then the starting point must be to avoid ruling by exceptional laws and return the country to ordinary laws and normal judiciary. That is the true starting point for a political and social reform. Without such a measure citizens will continue to be threatened in their freedom and property, the door will remain open for the abuse of authority and for tampering with the voters' will, and the atmosphere of fear and anticipation will continue, thus wasting productive energies and obstructing economic progress. It is with these considerations in mind that the representatives of the political parties signing this memorandum urge your excellency not to renew the enforcement of the emergency law, out of their concern for realizing a sound democratic practice that would create a favorable climate for the economic and social development sought by Egypt.
Respectfully yours [names of signatories not published]

Cabinet Reviews Economy, Mideast Issues

NC1404175891 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi chaired the Cabinet meeting today. They reviewed the initial agreement reached with the IMF, said Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. Al-Sharif said that Dr. Sidqi reviewed the economic and financial policies that will be implemented in stages.

According to the information minister, Dr. Sidqi noted that the agreement with the IMF was drawn up following three years of political consultations by President Mubarak. The agreement is in keeping with Egypt's economic reforms, the state's higher interests, the country's abilities, and the need to preserve the standard of living of the poorer sections of society.

Dr. Sidqi pointed out that the agreement will not be final until endorsed by the IMF Board of Governors on 15 May and the World Bank's Board of Governors on 15 June.

According to the information minister, the Cabinet also reviewed the efforts made with friendly countries to assist the Egyptian program of economic reforms. The Cabinet discussed preparations for the Paris Club meeting, scheduled to take place from 20 to 24 May, which will be devoted to the issue of reducing the burdens of Egypt's debt.

The Cabinet discussed a report by the Central Bank on the Egyptian foreign exchange market. The report notes a continuous increase in the foreign exchange reserves in Egyptian banks. The reserves are expected to rise further

with the increase in exports and tourism. Analysts expect the exchange rates of foreign currencies to stabilize over the coming months.

According to the information minister, the Cabinet reviewed reports by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz, and Dr. Maurice Makramallah about economic policy concerning the liberalization of the economy and the need to bring the deficit in the public budget and the balance of payments under control.

The Cabinet also discussed draft laws for implementing economic reforms. Among these is the draft law to overhaul the public sector and the draft law on planned investment. These laws involve measures to liberalize the Egyptian economy in management, production, prices, and marketing. The Cabinet also discussed the draft law on sales tax. The Cabinet discussed the measures to improve wages and subsidize basic goods so as to attain a balance between wages and need in accordance with economic reforms.

According to the information minister, the Cabinet discussed a report on the situation in Iraq in the aftermath of the Gulf war. The Cabinet noted that Egypt, in keeping with its principled stands, rejects attempts to partition Iraq, supports its unity and independence, and opposes any interference in its internal affairs. Egypt, the Cabinet agreed, is eager to participate in any humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people.

The Cabinet also discussed the various aspects of the UN Security Council resolution concerning the cease-fire in the Gulf and Iraq's acceptance of UN Security Council resolutions. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid briefed the Cabinet on the results of the visit to Egypt by the U.S. secretary of state, the ongoing talks concerning the Middle East, the various views on holding a regional conference with the aim of reaching a settlement of the region's security problems and of achieving peace, as well as the ideas tabled by the concerned parties, including Israel and the Arab sides. The Cabinet noted that Egypt is making every possible effort to bring about a comprehensive settlement and resolve the Palestinian issue. The Cabinet discussed the results of the visit to Egypt by President Hafiz al-Asad.

According to the information minister, the Cabinet approved the draft bill for the sales tax which, when the law is passed, will replace the consumption tax. The draft bill includes tax exemptions for necessary food and consumer items and all agricultural products. The sales tax will be a progressive one in terms of social justice.

The Cabinet also approved two agreements on prospecting for oil in the areas north of Port Said and south of al-Ghardaqah.

[In a similar report on the same Cabinet session, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1554 on 14 Apr adds the following: "The Cabinet also discussed the results of President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to Libya and his talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, which aimed at accelerating the process of cooperation and integration between the two brotherly countries.

["In this regard, Safwat al-Sharif said that during the talks both President Mubarak and Col. al-Qadhdhafi asserted their eagerness to remove any obstacles in the road to integration, joint work, and coordination in all sectors, in a way that would achieve the goals and aspirations of both nations.

["The information minister said that the talks also showed that Egyptian and Libyan views are identical on the repercussions of the Gulf crisis. The two countries believe that Arab efforts should seek to turn a new page since the crisis. The two countries stressed their rejection of the attempts to divide Iraq or interfere in its internal affairs."]

Libya

'Universal Resort' 15 Apr Anniversary Statement

LD1504203991 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, April 15 JANA—The political secretariat of the Universal Resort Against Imperialism, Zionism, Racism, Reactionism and Fascism issued a statement coinciding with the 5th anniversary of the failed American-NATO barbaric aggression. The statement says:

The constituent forces of Universal Resort, comprising revolutionary committees, liberation movements, and movements of peace, Greens, alternatives, environment and international congresses, while reviving the 5th anniversary of the brave and patriotic confrontation to the American-NATO aggression of April 15, 1986, declares its accusation to all forms of aggression intervention, and domination. It rejects all use of force policies intended to suppress the will of the people and forcing the people to admit the policy of de facto with no regard to their choice, their natural rights in life, through the occupation and domination of their potentials and their rejection to all forms of predomination and oppression.

Small nations, split up peoples and minorities, while (?living) the anniversay of aggression, confirm that their revolutionary march will mount and gather momentum and force in defence for peace and freedom. This will not be influenced by the weapon of the people's enemies. The bright future to be achieved by people's masses every where through the world would definitely be overlooking shortly. The masses theory is the way of the peoples toward emancipation and the aquisition by the masses of authority, wealth and arms. The coming of a new era created by the free and liberated will of the people where all forms of oppression and domination are abolished.

The anniversary of 15 April will be the universal day for the solidarity of the people and the defence of peace and freedom. Let us march ahead...al fateh is forever...the revolutionary struggle to continue...

Group Cables Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1504204391 Tripoli JANA in English 1706 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, April 15, JANA—The participants in the forum held by the Universal Resort against Imperialism, Zionism, Racism, Reactionism and Fascism, on the 5th anniversary of the brave confrontation by Arab Libyan people to the failed American-NATO barbaric aggression sent a cable to the leader of the revolution saying:-

To the universal thought leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.
Leader of the universal revolution.
revolutions greetings.

The constituent forces of the Universal Resort, while reviving the 5th anniversary of the brave confrontation by Arab Libyan people to the failed American-NATO barbaric aggression intended at the peoples of great Jamahiriya and at your person, O universal leader, our forces pay tribute to your significant role in the defence of international peace and security, and fighting all forms of domination, usury and aggression.

Our forces declare their eternal adherence to your universal revolution leadership, in defence of the right of the people to realise its democrtic choices and the presentation of its achievements and defending the aspiration in establishing a human community, through which prevail justice and equality and where all forms of aggression, exploitation and domination are abolished. Let us go ahead with al-fateh forever. Let the revolutionary march continue till peace and freedom prevail.

Arab Leaders Send Greetings to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1504090891 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution has received congratulations on the blessed 'Id al-Fitr from presidents and kings of the fraternal Arab and friendly countries. Congratulations were received from the following: President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President Chadli Bendjedid of the Algerian Republic, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Tunisian Republic, King Hassan II of Morocco, President of the Revolution Command Council of Sudan Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic, King Fahd of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, King Husayn of Jordan, President Ilyas al-Hirawi of the Lebanese Republic, President Saddam Husayn of the Iraqi Republic, and Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Somali Prime Minister Concludes Visit

LD1504184591 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli 15 April, JANA—Brother Omar Arteh Ghalib, the prime minister of Somalia and his accompanying delegation, left today at the end of their visit to great Jamahiriya.

Brother Ghalib expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the brother leader of the revolution for his support and help to the Somali people, in these difficult circumstances which it is going through.

In a statement he made to JANA before his departure he said: We were pleased to visit great Jamahiriya, and express our deep gratitude to the Libyan Arab people, for the warmth of their reception and congratulate the people of great Jamahiriya for what they have achieved in progress and prosperity in the various fields as a result of the great al fateh revolution.

Visit Assessed

LD1604083391 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Arab Maghreb Union pool item]

[Excerpt] [no dateline as received]—[passage omitted] In an interview carried out by the "Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland, Voice of the Revolutionary Committees", he [Somali Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib] explained that there is a deep outstanding fraternal friendship and an old acquaintance with the brother leader, and that he had visited great Jamahiriyah ten years ago, the last visit was on the 13th of Al Harth month [November] in 1980, where he was received by the leader of the revolution.

He said: My pleasure was great when I encountered the brother leader, after forlorness. I will not forget his loyalty and his original Arab magnanimity.

He pointed out that his visit to great Jamahiriyah aimed to brief the brother revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the current situation in Somalia, and to conduct talks with him regarding the latest developments and results of the horrific civil war in Somalia.

He pointed out the reflections and the negative consequences resulting from the catastrophe of the tragic Gulf war on the Somali people, and of the economical damages, and the media and political black-out of the civil war that is taking place in Somalia.

He saluted the efforts of the Great al-Fatih revolution, and its leader in bandaging the wounds of the Arab nation, and [words indistinct] scattered and spread countries, to bring it out of the dilemma and conflict, and healing the wounds suffered by the Arab Legaue after the catastrophe of the Gulf war.

He called for the importance of developing the charter of the Arab League and, [word indistinct] its charter to what fulfils the ambitions of the Arab masses and building a complete unity from the ocean to the Gulf.

He stressed the importance of the Arab Unity to confront the imminent dangers facing the Arab homeland, and that it has now become a necessity more than ever before, in this age of great coalitions where there is no room for small entities. He also stressed the importance of the [word indistinct] African integration to resist the Zionism powers in Africa and expel it.

He saluted the struggle of the rebellion's conscripts of the stone in occupied Palestine and their popular revolution commemorating its entering the fourth anniversary, he urged the conscripts of the stone to continue afoot in their daily struggle until the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea and from the south to the south.

Brother Omar Arteh Ghalib, the prime minister of brotherly Somalia, at the end of the interview which was conducted by the "Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland, the Voice of the Revolutionary Committees", expressed his deep admiration with the civilized giant achievement realized on the great Jamahiriyah land as a result of the Great al-Fatih revolution. He said: "We have a wish in Somalia to follow the example of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, and what it had materialized of civilized achievements both aspects materialy and morally." Adding: "As [words indistinct] great Jamahiriyah, our head lifted and our hearts greateful to God and to the Great al-Fatih revolution and its leader".

Mauritania

Taya Announces Referendum on Constitution

AB1504110391 Paris AFP in French 0436 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 14 Apr (AFP)—Mauritanians will be consulted through a referendum before the end of the year on the adoption of a new Constitution, and then general elections will be held. This was announced this morning by the Mauritanian head of state, Mr. Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya.

"In accordance with the deepest desire of our fellow citizens, a referendum will be organized to adopt a Constitution before the end of the year," the head of state said. "After the Constitution is adopted, free elections will be held to elect members of a National Assembly and a Senate."

Among other measures, "the authorization to create an unlimited number of political parties will be the framework for any political action," Colonel Taya said in his statement to the nation on the celebration of Ramadan, at around 0200 GMT this morning.

The Mauritanian head of state, however, did not refer to demands expressed by a number of Mauritanians relating to the beginning of an investigation by an independent body into what was exacted from black Mauritanians. The death toll from these actions amounted to 200 people killed, according to various sources in Nouakchott.

In addition, the head of state has announced the creation of an economic and social council. He expressed his best wishes to all Mauritanians ready to celebrate the end of Ramadan and to all Muslims in the world at large, and expressed the wish for "more progress and prosperity" for them. He added: "We are determined to see all Mauritanians participate in the progress being made and the building of the nation in a free, independent, strong, and prosperous Mauritania."

Nonetheless, the head of state did not give any indication of when political parties would be authorized, observers noted. But this decision could be made after the adoption of the Constitution, and we do not know if the Economic Council, which will be established in the future, will be a "constituent" body.

The Mauritanian head of state, who acceeded to power in December 1984, promised when he took over that a democratic process would be launched, and the first steps were the holding of municipal elections that took place in past years.

For a few weeks now, several anonymous pamphlets, as well as open letters, were sent to the head of state requesting democratization, as well as the constitution of a committee of investigation and the trial of people responsible for exactions from "Negro-Africans." Some, like the Union of Mauritanian Workers (single trade union) even asked for a national conference.

Several factions, notably the Arab nationalist parties, at the time made known their reluctant attitude toward the imposition of "a foreign model," denouncing in certain cases the interference of western power and especially of France, the former colonial power. They accused France of trying at all costs to democratize the entire African continent.

To observers, Taya's statement this morning is considered an important step in the process of democratization, but it was not sufficient for those who wrote the open letters to the head of state and will, without doubt, demand "more and more."

In any case, everybody in Nouakchott knew that the political parties already existed underground and are just now ready to come out in the open.

Detained Black Africans Ordered Released

AB1504142091 Paris AFP in French 1321 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 15 Apr (AGP)—The Mauritanian head of state has decided on the immediate release of all Black African detainees in Mauritania, it was learned today from authorized sources in Nouakchott. This

order is expected to cover all persons implicated in the attempted coup d'etat denounced by the authorities in November 1990.

The decision was made on the occasion of the celebration, today, of 'Id al-Fitr, the end of the Ramadan fast. The number of persons affected by this measure is, reportedly, 64, according to official figures presented to AFP by the president of the National Bar Association, Mr. Cheik Ould Mouhammadou.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Dismisses Two Command Council Members

EA1504145691 Khartoum SUNA in English 1016 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 15 April (SUNA)—Lt-Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, has fired two of his colleagues from the 15-man RCC membership. In a decree released yesterday night the RCC chairman ousted Maj-Gen Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the RCC and minister for interior, and Brig 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the RCC and head of the Political Committee.

Lt-Gen al-Bashir issued another decree appointing his deputy, Maj-Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, as minister for interior and RCC member Brig Pio Yukwan as head of the Political Committee and RCC member Col Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah as his deputy. [sentence as received]

Article on Khartoum 'Disinformation' Ploy Cited

EA1204222591 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Since the fundamentalist military junta usurped power in June 1989, banned the political parties and the press, the regime's newspaper, AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, has been the only one that brings disinformation aimed at discrediting the opposition. The junta's latest article aimed at discrediting the opposition was quoted by the SUDAN DEMOCRATIC GAZETTE of March 1991 in an article headlined: Government in Exile or Disinformation?

The latest episode in the Islamic fundamentalist military junta's attempt to discredit the Sudanese opposition through disinformation involved a story published in the Khartoum regime's AL-IQADH or SALVATION newspaper, which claimed that a government-in-exile has been set up. The story, published at the beginning of February, stated that the National Democratic Alliance, NDA, in association with the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], had set up a government-in-exile with a president, vice president, and ministers. The newspaper's report naturally condemned the move to set up a government-in-exile. It named as president the former army commander in chief General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, who now lives in exile in Egypt. His deputy was named as the SPLA leader, Colonel John Garang, and the prime minister was said to be Dr. Mansur Khalid, another prominent SPLA leader. There is, of course, absolutely no truth in the newspaper's report. It is simply another attempt by the Khartoum regime to mislead the Sudanese public and spread disinformation about the opposition movement.

Publication of such a story is symptomatic of the regime's growing paranoia and insecurity. The reaction of the junta towards the activities of the former army commanders over the past two months springs from real concern about their ability to rally support in the Armed Forces, even though they were dismissed from their posts in one of the actions of the junta in June 1989 and have since gone into voluntary exile.

The three army generals of particular concern for the regime are Gen. Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, his deputy, Gen. 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, and the former head of the national security, Brigadier al-Hadi al-Bushra. Apart from helping to organize the NDA abroad, they have held meetings with the SPLA leadership in Ethiopia and, more significantly, deep inside southern Sudan. An agreement of some kind has been reached between the SPLA and these three former commanders. Although the precise details have not been made public, it is believed that they have agreed to work towards the overthrow of the junta by whatever means necessary, the abrogation of all the regime's policies, including the Islamic law, and the restoration of a multiparty democracy. The three former commanders' influence in the Armed Forces is obviously still significant enough for the Khartoum regime to (?display these factors) and actively attempt to discredit them. All three commanders were recently put on trial in absentia and sentenced to death. All three have been stripped of their property inside Sudan both movable and immovable.

The latest disinformation strategy for the junta seems solely designed to create friction among the various elements of the opposition movement. The last thing the al-Bashir regime wishes to see is a cohesive opposition movement allying influential northern Sudanese with leading southern Sudanese figures. Such a movement would spell the end of rule by the Islamic fundamentalists. Therefore, the regime will try anything to destroy the unity of the opposition movement.

The latest ploy is also designed to resurrect the phony old chestnut of [can] a southern Sudanese ever be the supreme leader in the country, or is such a position only available to a northern Sudanese? By claiming that Gen. Fathi was made president of the government-in-exile ahead of the leader of the SPLA, the regime was hoping to create the impression once more that no matter how successful, capable, or powerful a southern Sudanese becomes, he still can only take the No. 2 position in the country's hierarchy. Suggesting that Gen. Fathi would be made president ahead of Col. Garang is a [words indistinct] this sore [word indistinct], considering that one no

longer has an army to command while, as to the other, he is the leader of the most powerful opposition group facing the al-Bashir's regime whose army has won control of most of southern Sudan on the battlefield.

The SPLA has regularly stated that one of its long term objectives is the liberation of all northern Sudanese from the belief that they are inherently better than all southerners and that a national government could never be led by a southern Sudanese. Perhaps Al-Bashir's regime hopes that their fabricated newspaper story will split the opposition down the middle by making the question of whether or not a southern Sudanese could lead Sudan into a major issue. Col. Garang has frequently demonstrated that the SPLA is above the ambitions of any individual and is working towards a revolutionary change in people's attitudes and prejudices as well as their politics. He has refused Lieutenant General al-Bashir's offer to become his deputy in the regime. In the same way, he refused the same offer in the past by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Gen. Siwar al-Dhahab in 1985, and former dictator al-Numayri before that.

Traditional attitudes apart, it is clear that the opposition movement has retained its unity and has set aside individual differences while it is concentrating on overthrowing al-Bashir's regime. The junta, in spite of its many attempts at disinformation, has yet to drive a wedge between the SPLA, the former army commanders, and the NDA.

Passports Issued to Islamic Movement Leaders

EA1204112991 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The National Islamic Front [NIF] government has embarked on issuing diplomatic passports to some leaders and elements of the Islamic movements. Recently, the ministerial council and the [word indistinct] began to order already stamped diplomatic passports without stating the parties to which the passports will be issued. It is worth mentioning that the passport control authorities at Paris airport noticed Rached Ghannouchi, the leader of the Tunisian Islamic Movement [Hizb al-Nahdah] entering France with a Sudanese diplomatic passport and they informed the Tunisian authorities about this. The latter lodged an official protest to al-Bashir's government. Moreover, the employees of the consulate submitted a memo to the acting undersecretary for foreign affairs, 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Sa'id, who commented on the memo by saying that there is no homeland for the Muslims.

It is worth mentioning that 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Sa'id was the NIF's representative to the Afghan mujahedeen for four years.

Minister To Visit New Radio Site

AB1104172191 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Professor Bakr Mustafa, information minister in Bahr al-Ghazal state, will visit Wau in the next two days to inspect work for the launching of a radio in the state and to explain the policies of public education and the new educational program. The apparatus has already been fitted and arrangements are underway to dispatch technicians ready to start transmission.

World Bank Reportedly To Close Khartoum Mission

EA1304084291 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The World Bank's Board of Directors has decided to close the Bank's mission in Khartoum. The Sudanese Government has been officially informed that the Bank has no cooperation program with it and that the last employee of the Bank would leave Khartoum in December.

It is worth mentioning that the World Bank has been financing a number of large projects in Sudan. It has participated in financing the rehabilitation of factories with funds of $180 million. Likewise, it had participated in the al-Jazirah project rehabilitation, for $380 million. Finally, the Bank had assumed the role of coordinator in the rehabilitation of what had been destroyed by rains and floods; it participated in this project with $80 million out of the sum of $407 million, which had been pledged by the donor countries to Sudan before the 30 June coup d'etat.

With this announcement of the World Bank and the IMF, Sudan is now included in the list of bankrupt countries. It is also worth mentioning that this announcement closes any possibility of cooperation with the regional funds—for instance, the Saudi, Kuwaiti, and other Arab funds.

U.S. Said Willing To Help Numayri Regain Power

PM1204115791 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Article by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar: "United States Grants Numayri's Request for Help To Overthrow Sudanese Regime"]

[Text] The United States has agreed to deposed Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's request for assistance to seize power in Sudan and overthrow the military regime there. Numayri recently visited Washington for secret talks with U.S. Administration officials on the current situation in Sudan and ways of getting rid of the al-Bashir regime. The former Sudanese president affirmed to the U.S. officials that political and military opposition inside Sudan and abroad was mounting. The U.S. Administration advised Numayri to coordinate

with the Sudanese opposition forces to speed the overthrow of the current Sudanese regime.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed that the Egyptian authorities have allowed Numayri to carry out political and informational activity in Egypt and to contact the various Sudanese forces. The sources added that the deposed Sudanese president has sent letters to a number of Gulf states leaders asking for permission to embark on a Gulf tour to discuss the current situation in Sudan in the light of Sudan's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis. Numayri has also had contacts with the Sudanese opposition in Ethiopia and Kenya to determine the steps to be taken to overthrow the al-Bashir regime. The sources noted that Egypt has repeatedly rejected Sudan's request for a ban on Sudanese opposition activities in Egypt.

AL-WAFD has learned that Colonel John Garang, leader of the People's Movement in southern Sudan, will visit Egypt soon for consultations on the current situation in Sudan.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Saudi Arabian Ambassador

LD1804180991 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali received at the Republican Palace in Carthage this morning Saudi Ambassador to Tunisia Ibrahim Sa'd al-Ibrahim, who said afterwards that he conveyed to President Ben Ali the congratulations of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, custodian of the two holy mosques; and those of the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chief of the National Guards, Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr Feast.

The ambassador added that he listened to the president's talk about the development of relations between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and fraternal Tunisia which, thanks be to God, are very good. He added that he found the president, as usual, anxious to maintain excellent relations with all the Arab and Islamic countries in general, and with the Saudi Arabian Kingdom in particular.

Kuwait

Amir Appeals for Iraqi Release of Prisoners

LD1504174791 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The amir of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, has appealed to the heads of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general to exert all available means of pressure on the Iraqi regime to force it to quickly release the Kuwaiti prisoners of war who are still detained, and to obtain confirmed information about the fate of missing persons and to work toward releasing them. This came in messages addressed by the amir of Kuwait to the heads of the five countries and the UN secretary general.

AFP Cites 'Sources' on Government 'Shakeup'

NC1504203991 Paris AFP in English 2026 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Kuwait City, April 15 (AFP)—Three members of the Kuwaiti royal family are to be dropped from a new cabinet that is expected to be announced Saturday, sources close to the government said here Monday.

Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, in a major shakeup, is expected to replace members of the ruling al-Sabah family who currently hold the portfolios of finance, social affairs and the interior. But he will retain Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah as foreign minister, who will also assume the post of defense minister, according to the sources.

In all at least 14 ministers are likely to be changed in the 24-member cabinet, they said. The new cabinet, expected to be formally named at the end of a three day Muslim holiday starting Tuesday, will replace the government that resigned March 20. The mass resignation came in the face of mounting dissatisfaction with the slow pace at which essential services were restored in the aftermath of the Iraqi occupation.

Minister Denies Mistreatment of Palestinians

LD1304201291 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Information Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has expressed Kuwait's thanks and appreciation for the good and historic stances which the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states adopted in backing the legitimate cause of Kuwait, opening the doors wide to its sons, according them hospitality, and offering them all services and facilities during the ordeal.

In an interview with the Qatari paper AL-RAYAH AL-QATARIYAH, published today, Dr. al-Ya'qub stated that UN Security Council Resolution 687 gave Kuwait its full rights back and protected the rights of everyone who suffered from the criminal Iraqi invasion. He pointed out that the resolution will serve as a deterrent to anyone who lets himself be seduced by the idea of violating the rights of other states and disregarding the legal regulations and international conventions. [passage omitted]

The information minister pointed out that the new government formation will be announced at the appropriate time and that this is a matter for the political leadership. [passage omitted]

He once again denied the rumors being spread with regard to the mistreatment of Palestinians in Kuwait. He said that those who report these lies are the very ones who attacked Kuwait and justified the aggression of the tyrant Saddam. He pointed out that the reports issued by the United Nations, the International Red Cross, and other international organizations refute such vile rumors.

Dr. al-Ya'qub added that work is being carried out at present in order to [word indistinct] the various media, including radio and television broadcasting, in order to cover the Gulf Cooperation Council member states and parts of the other neighboring states.

Public Prosecutor Details Collaboration Cases

LD1404121691 London KUNA in Arabic 1041 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti public prosecutor, Hamid al-'Uthman, stated in a press interview published here today that about 200 cases involving over 300 defendants of various nationalities—the majority of them being Iraqi's who had been previously living in Kuwait, Iraqis who came into the country during the occupation, or stateless people of Iraqi descent, and some Kuwaitis—have been referred to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-ANBA', al-'Uthman said that the defendants are charged with intelligence espionage, giving shelter to the enemy, aiding the commitment of murder, abduction, and looting of all types. He said that the defendents will be referred to the courts very soon so that they may receive their just punishment.

The Kuwaiti public prosecutor affirmed that Kuwaiti law does not deal with people according to their nationalities, but deals with all accused irrespective of their nationalities. Furthermore, he said, the charges against the defendents are made in accordance with Kuwaiti Law, and not in accordance with international law, which deals with the remanded as war criminals.

He said that the Public Prosector's Office has received, and continues to receive, information from citizens against the Iraqis who committed brutal acts during the Iraqi invasion, even if they were outside the country.

Kuwait will ask for all defendants proven guilty of collaborating with the Iraqi regime during the occupation, and will try such people in absentia. He added that the office has also been receiving information from some residents against Kuwaiti nationals.

Al-'Uthman said that crimes not considered by law military crimes will be referred to the ordinary courts. These include crimes of murder, rape, and abduction. They will be referred to the Criminal Court, which will act in tandem with the military courts trying cases of violation of the orders of the military governor general.

Oman

Qabus Receives Message From Egypt's Mubarak

JN1304144591 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God protect him, has received an oral message from his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt.

The message was communicated to His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, when he received Egyptian Ambassador to Oman Muhammad 'Abd-al-Khaliq Shalabi at his office this afternoon. The meeting dealt with fraternal bilateral ties, the situation in the region, and issues of common interest.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Speaks on War Outcome, Government

LD1504202191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Mecca, 15 Apr (SPA)—In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God who has fulfilled His promise to us, and who says in His holy book: "Support God and He shall make you victorious and make your feet firm." [passage omitted]

Brother citizens, there is no doubt that our success and achievement during the critical and harsh months that we lived through together with the fraternal and friendly states—until God granted victory to the truth with the liberation of fraternal Kuwait from the grips of the unjust occupation and the burden of the treacherous aggressor—are due to a number of basic factors:

First, God's blessing by making us make the decisive decision at the appropriate time. That is due to our permanent commitment to our Islamic faith; our following of the teachings of our orthodox religion; and our reference back to God in all matters.

Second, that brilliant patriotic feature characterizing the loyal Saudi people, as always, under all circumstances and crises—a matter which had far-reaching effects on the success of the efforts of our men and sons who raced toward off dangers to our homeland and its capabilities. In doing so, they recorded the most magnificent story in the register of the sons of this dear homeland.

The third factor is represented in the sincere stance taken by the entire world alongside right, justice, and the consolidation of international legitimacy and support of one who had been dealt an injustice. [passage omitted] We will always remember with all gratitude and appreciation anyone who has backed us and helped us to secure right in dificult times with their honorable positions.

Brother citizens, you all know that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been founded—since it was set up by our father, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, may God bless his soul—on the strongest Islamic foundations and pillars, on moral values, authentic Arab traditions, and noble social ideals, using the book of God and the traditions of His Prophet—prayers and peace of God be upon him—as the basis and platform in matters related to our religion and our world. [passage omitted] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been, since its foundation and until today, the source of all good to its brothers and friends. When God bestowed on it its good and generosity, the Kingdom extended a helping hand to those far and near, without any favor, but out of conviction and gladness of what is dictated to it by duties and considerations that cannot be neglected, and within the limits of possibilities.

Brothers, no doubt we have come out from the Gulf crisis, following the liberation of sister Kuwait, with numerous points for consideration and important lessons, which we ought to be well aware of and comprehend their dimensions in order to utilize the experiences of the present for the good of the future. At the forefront of those lessons is the collective cooperation between the [Arab] brothers so as to correct the course of the Arab nation and to guide its steps on the optimum road toward a better future.

Regarding the building of the Armed Forces, the main lesson to be learned from the Gulf crisis and the experience of our forces, which did extremely well, and out of the reality in which we live today, we in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have made a decisive decision to immediately embark on expanding and strengthening our Armed Forces, providing them with the most effective and most advanced land, sea, and air weapons the world has produced as well as advanced military and technical equipment. We will, God willing, work toward raising the level of efficiency of our men in the Armed Forces in the various fields, doubling efforts in regard to conscription to meet the required needs for defending the dear homeland and warding off [enemies] from its waters and land.

Confirming what was announced earlier about the intention of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

to develop the structure of its administrative systems in accordance with our concepts based on the rules and teachings of the Islamic shar'ia [law]. I would like to point out, at the conclusion of my speech, that the committee chaired by Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz commissioned to study the basic system of government, the Consultative Council system, and the districts' system has made long strides in the final review of these systems, as soon as it finishes they will be submitted to the Council of Ministers, God willing. [passage omitted]

'Desert Storm' Financial Commitments Reaffirmed

LD1504222691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] A responsible source made a statement to the SPA today saying that, considering the reports carried by some Western news media about defining the amounts due from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward Operation Desert Storm, which ended with the liberation of fraternal Kuwait from the tyrant Iraqi occupation, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to reaffirm its complete adherence to fulfilling all its financial commitments to the United States toward this operation without delay. The source concluded by saying that all that has been said to cast doubt about this commitment is not true at all.

Fahd Receives Pakistani, Afghan, UAE Visitors

LD1204214691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received at the royal court in al-Safwah Palace today the following: Professor Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation; Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, and his accompanying delegation; His Highness Shaykh Khalid Bin-Suqr al-Qasimi, the heir apparent and deputy ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah, who handed the custodian of the two holy mosques a message from His Highness Shaykh Saqr Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Higher Council in the State of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah.

Pakistani Prime Minister Departs 13 Apr

LD1304174591 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpt] His Excellency Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan and the delegation accompanying him left Jeddah this afternoon after a visit to the kingdom, where he performed the rituals of the minor pilgrimage and visited the prophet's mosque. [passage omitted]

Mecca Vice Governor Receives Afghan Official

LD1204165291 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Jeddah, April 12, SPA—President of the Islamic Afghanistan State Sebghatullah Mojadeddi arrived in Jeddah last night on a visit to the Kingdom for performing umrah [minor pilgrimage].

He was received at the airport by Prince Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin Al Sa'ud, vice governor of Mecca region, and high ranking officials.

United Arab Emirates

USSR Envoy Says Iraqi Agreements 'Suspended'

JN1404181591 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 11 Apr 91 p 14

[Excerpts] Shahin Afandiyuv [name as published], Soviet charge d'affaires in Kuwait, will leave Abu Dhabi today for Kuwait to reopen his country's embassy there. The embassy was closed because of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August.

At a news conference yesterday afternoon in Abu Dhabi, Afandiyuv said he expects Ernest Zverev, Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, to leave for Kuwait at the end of this month to resume his duties. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the present situation in Iraq, the Soviet official said that it is very dangerous. He said his country thinks it is necessary to stop the fighting between government forces and opposition and to resolve the problems between the two. However, he made no mention of the need to topple the Saddam Husayn regime to stop the massacres against the innocent factions of Iraqi opposition. He reaffirmed that his government wants to see Iraqi territorial integrity maintained.

On the Soviet position regarding the comprehensive technical and military cooperation agreement signed with Iraq, the Soviet official said that this agreement has been completely suspended in observance of UN and Security Council economic resolutions. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Visits Karkuk; Briefed on Damage

JN1504211991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2059 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today visited the city of Karkuk in northern Iraq, the center of al-Ta'mim Governorate.

At the governorate headquarters, the president met with al-Ta'mim Governor Hashim Hasan Majid, who briefed the president during the meeting on the amount of damage to public and private areas and installations related to providing direct services to the citizens. The damage was caused by the cowardly acts of paid demagogues and mercenaries who sold their consciences very cheaply to the foreigner.

President Saddam Husayn gave instructions to take the appropriate measures to provide the requirements for a secure and stable life for the sons of the governorate.

His excellency saluted the sons of our people who gathered outside the governorate's headquarters to express their absolute loyalty to great Iraq, to its struggler leader President Saddam Husayn, the symbol of steadfastness, and to the sons of the land between the two rivers.

UN Informed of Iranian Cease-Fire Violations

JN1504195691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1918 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] United Nations, 15 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations informed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today of a memorandum regarding confirmed facts on Iranian violations of the cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran. Following is the text of the memorandum:

Mr. Secretary General:

Proceeding from instructions from the government of my country and following up on our messages, the last of which was on 13 April 1991, I have the honor of presenting you with the remaining facts concerning Iranian violations of the cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran in the following manner:

1. On 15 March 1991, an Iranian force consisting of an infantry regiment supported by artillery attacked the Iraqi Ziyadi border post in the central region. This was preceeded by preparatory shelling from Iranian territory with various mortar launchers. At the same time, the Iranian side also attacked the Iraqi al-Sayhah border post in the central region after carrying out preparatory shelling with mortars and shells.

At 2305 on the same day, the Iranian side attacked the al-Sayhah border post again. At the same time, it also attacked the 'Arafat border post using weapons, machine guns, and mortar shells.

2. On 19 March 1991, the Iranian side destroyed and blew up the following Iraqi border posts with TNT: Qutaybah, Al-Karmashiah, Ziyadi, Tariq Ibn-Ziyad, 'Ayn al-'Id, and al-Shihabi border posts.

3. At 0300 on 10 April 1991, three groups of the Iranian forces crossed into Iraqi territory in the direction of the coastal road of the Shatt al-'Arab al-Saghir River and Chalamchah road, supported by 107 mm mortar launchers. The Iranian side shelled the Iraqi southern Majnun area with heavy artillery from 0920 until 1120 the same day.

These violations reconfirm the Iranian Government's insistence on violating the cease-fire between the two countries and its premeditated attempts to harm Iraq's sovereignty and security. My government reiterates the Iranian Government's responsibility for all the damage that these violations may cause to Iraq.

Please accept my best respects.

Envoy to UN Sends Memo on U.S.-Saudi Overflights

JN1504143291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1410 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Iraq's permanent UN representative has sent the following memo to the UN chief on U.S. overflights, requesting that it be circulated as a Security Council document:

First, the American-Saudi air activity for 13-14 April 1991 totalled 144 sorties in 72 formations at altitudes ranging between four and seven kms, and at 800-1,000 km per hour.

Second, the planes were identified as F-15's and F-14's flying mainly over Baghdad, al-Habbaniyah, al-Kut, al-'Aziziyah, and al-Suwayrah, engaging in reconnaissance, observation, and harassment. hl

Information Minister Interviewed on Media

JN1304093791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Apr 91 p 15

[Interview with Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi by Sa'd al-Silawi in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpts] [al-Silawi] What do you know about media technology, and what effect does it have on the West's propaganda campaign against the Arabs?

[Hammadi] In the West, there is something called media technology, but there is no political ideology. As for us, we have a political ideology, irrespective of its color. I am not speaking as a media specialist but as a citizen and politician, as one who studied in the West. [passage omitted]

Our misfortune in the Third World and in the Arab world in particular is that the opposition parties are not nationalist opposition parties. Had they been nationalist opposition parties, there would be no problem. When the

British Labor Party opposes the Conservatives, it does not conclude agreements with Germany, for example, and receive financial assistance from it to topple the regime and assume power itself. All these opposition parties are not parties that champion democracy. They follow an imperialist course and have personal and material interests and links with neighboring countries or with other countries. We are determined to establish a nationalist opposition. This is an irrevocable decision. The government was bent on achieving this in 1979. However, the war with Iran took place. During the war, the issue was discussed, and it was decided to postpone it until after the war. But when we realized that the war became a protracted one, we decided to discuss it in 1986. We discussed the issue in detail and objectivity and were on the verge of initiating this stage and issuing a press law and another law for the parties. The economic blockade, however, and the recent events took place. Now that the tribulation has ended we are determined, with God's help, to go through with this experience. [passage omitted]

[Al-Silawi] Mr. Minister: It is evident that the West is preparing for a new stage—the postwar stage. The other war continues, however, and they are waging it on three fronts: the media front, which is a major one; the economy front; and the secret services front. These three fronts are linked together. Regarding the media front, I read in AL-JUMHURIYAH that Israel infiltrated its agents into Arab political parties and movements in the Arab street. I think they concentrated on the parties because they were expecting a democratic phase.

But with regard to the issue of the economy as well as the recent Security Council resolution and the commitments resulting from it, how long will the reconstruction continue?

Regarding the political parties: Have their foreign connections changed, or can one deal with these parties without foreign connections? How can one guarantee this? Can we say that the jolt is so huge that it has shaken every Iraqi—regardless of his ideological position—even those with foreign connections?

[Hammadi] Israel's infiltration in the Arab parties and movements is not new. [passage omitted]

With regard to the recent Security Council resolution, the percentage that they will take [as war reparations] will be decided in light of Iraq's commitments to the required debts that will be allocated for reconstruction and basic needs. This might be a blessing instead of an obstacle so that we can achieve vertical expansion and increase our production. By achieving this surplus, we will meet our needs.

The political and organizational status of the party is difficult. On the other hand, I believe that the issue of another rival party has ended.

We have laid down conditions for the other parties. The records of these parties should be open, and their financial sources should be local, not foreign. If it is found out that a party is being financed from abroad, this will be considered a violation.

[Al-Silawi] Speaking about parties, parliament, and the Constitution: Which will come first, elections or parliament?

[Hammadi] We will have two bodies: the National Assembly, which we call the House of Representatives, comprising 250-300 deputies, and the Consultative Council, whose members will be either appointed or elected. Both bodies will be responsible for legislation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Silawi] What is your comment on the UN Security Council resolution that calls for dispatching UN forces to the Iraq-Kuwait border and the establishment of a security enclave for the Kurds in northern Iraq?

[Hammadi] We have agreed to the dispatch of UN forces on the Iraq-Kuwait border, and this is one of the normal measures that the United Nations adopts to resolve international disputes. As for the security enclave to protect the Kurds that was put forward by the Turkish prime minister and was immediately adopted by the British prime minister, our position is clear: We strongly object to this idea and will do our best to prevent such a thing from happening. It is a flagrant and ironic intervention and a conspiracy against Iraq. Britain adopted the idea quickly because it harbors ill will against Iraq. I think this project has failed at the United Nations and the Security Council. I was interviewed by ITN [British Independent Television News] a few days ago, and I told them that this is not in Turkey's interest. I also said that Britain and other countries are the ones creating a problem along the same lines of the Palestine problem. Today, I heard Ozal talking, and he said the same thing, that this problem would create terrorism.

[Al-Silawi] What are the details of the U.S. conspiracy against the unity of Iraq?

[Hammadi] Before the military aggression, Bush used to speak about the Iraqi people and how they should rise up to topple the despot, that he would not shed tears if this or that person goes, and that the Iraqi people are the ones to decide.

He planned for this, and it began four days after the aggression in al-Nasiriyah area and in the Suq al-Shuyukh.

The point of all this is that this area lies behind the Presidential Guard units. The plan was that if the Iraqi Army triumphed in the ground war, this new aggression would wipe it out, and if the army was defeated, this would help in its defeat.

If we remember, Bush warned Iran against interfering and in doing so warned his group consisting of [Iraqi opposition leader] Sa'd Salih Jabr and the opposition,

for which he organized a conference. Bush found himself caught in crossfire. As for us, our response was swift, and we wiped out the rebellion in the south. After this, rebels crossed from Iran and Turkey and committed crimes in southern and northern Iraq. The rebels used to take the inhabitants away with them. They took by force those who did not comply, so as to create a situation that would be magnified by Western media and exploited by politicians in the West to enable them to interfere once again.

This state of affairs failed, however, because some of the citizens returned home. Turkey cannot and will never be able to absorb them. The rebels have prevented them from returning to their homes. As for us, we have provided them with transportation, medicines, and food.

[Al-Silawi] Will Iraq agree to attend the regional conference if pressure is brought to bear on it?

[Hammadi] Our policy is clear. Iraq accepts whatever is accepted by the PLO, which is the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative. What the PLO believes in and defends, we also believe in and defend. We might have another view, but we will agree to what the PLO decides. Iraq will not speak on behalf of the PLO.

[Al-Silawi] How does Iraq view inter-Arab relations, and what is required now from the Arab countries as regards Iraq?

[Hammadi] We hope that Arab solidarity will prevail throughout inter-Arab relations—a solidarity in accordance with the principles of joint Arab action. Otherwise, our ranks will become disunited. This is our policy, and we will act accordingly.

Reconstruction Offers Come From 'Many Countries'

JN1404083991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0733 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH today said that in the wake of the final cease-fire, the competent government authorities have received major tenders from many countries and international companies to contribute to Iraq's reconstruction. The paper noted that these contributions for reconstruction in Iraq will take the form of loans, credits, direct loans, or facilities.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the Council of Ministers is currently studying all tenders to take the necessary measures in their regard, in accordance with the course of the central government and the priorities of the projects.

Electricity, Drinking Water Restored in Al-Basrah

NC1304112791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Al-Basrah, 13 Apr (INA)—Electric power has been supplied to most of the residential areas in the al-Basrah Governorate now that the al-Shu'aybah power plant has been put into operation and the [al-Nujaybiyah] power plant has been repaired. Both of these plants were heavily damaged by the imperialist aggression and acts of sabotage.

Al-Basrah Governor Latif Hammud has stated that electric power will be supplied to all parts of the governorate in a few days when the work teams complete repairs on damaged electrical networks and transformers. [passage omitted]

He noted that the water network and sewers have been completely repaired following the restoration of electric power and that pure water has been supplied to all residential areas in the governorate. [passage omitted]

Bayji Refineries Reportedly Resuming Production

JN1504083591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Bayji, 15 Apr (INA)—Bayji refineries, 220 km to the north of Baghdad, will soon begin producing gasoline, white oil, gas oil, liquid oil, and grease.

This was announced by Tahah Hammud, director general of Bayji refineries, at a news conference organized for the media during their visit to the installation.

He added that the refineries, which were subjected to persistent, aggressive bombing, will resume production now that their technical cadres have managed to reduce the period of time required for repair and maintenance.

Beginning this week about 6 million liters of gasoline, 3 million liters of white oil, in addition to grease by-products, gas oil, and liquid oil will be produced daily.

Tahah Hammud explained that the installation will reach its full production capacity for gasoline and white oil at the end of May and will accomplish the work of the grease-prouction unit by the end of June.

Baghdad Oil Refinery To Resume Production 1 May

JN1404095391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0736 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—Actual production of white oil, gasoline, gas oil, and grease by-products at al-Dawrah refinery in Baghdad will start 1 May with 82 percent of the production capacity before the start of the aggressive war.

This was reported by the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published here today. Full pre-war output—92,000 barrels per day—will resume on 1 June, adds the paper.

The paper cites the director of the refinery as saying that the mechanical production of oil by-products will start tomorrow, Monday. He said the campaign to rebuild the oil facilities in the refinery is in full swing.

Financial Institutions Resume Work in Governorates

JN1404175091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1631 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—Four specialized field and executive teams were set up today under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Majid 'Abd Ja'far. The teams will follow up on the legal and administrative measures that should be enforced in the autonomous region [of Kurdistan] and Nineveh and al-Ta'mim Governorates.

In a statement to INA, Majid 'Abd Ja'far said that the field teams have already started to recondition financial institutions, such as the al-Rafidayn Bank, al-Rashid Bank, the Real Estate, Agricultural and Economic Bank, the General Establishment of Taxes, the real estate of the state, the pension fund, the treasury, customs, and insurance companies.

He added that the teams sent to the Nineveh, al-Ta'mim, Dahuk, Irbil, and al-Sulaymaniyah Governorates have begun to provide all the necessary requirements for these departments to resume their functions, to reorganize files and documents so as to facilitate and simplify the formalities of citizens and preserve their rights, and to remove the traces of destruction and sabotage inflicted on institutions in these areas.

The minister said that the rights of citizens in the government institutions belonging to the Finance Ministry were safeguarded and protected because there are copies of documents at the main headquarters, in addition to the fact that savings accounts and other bank accounts are preserved in vaults that escaped destruction.

Iran Trying To Export Revolution, 'Swallow' Iraq

JN1404120591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says that when President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thought he could swallow Iraq through agents and interference in Iraq's internal affairs, he made the same mistake Khomeyni made.

In an analysis written by its political editor, the paper today stresses that the Iranian regime has laid down schemes with a view to achieving what it failed to gain during eight years of war.

The paper notes the Iranian regime's attempt to portray itself as sympathetic toward Iraq during the brutal air raids against its economic and civilian establishments and the killing of many citizens.

It says that when the anti-Iraq aggression entered the phase of a ground attack, resulting in what has happened, it became obvious that the Iranian regime was actually intending something different from what it shyly pretended.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that the Iranian regime mobilized its guards and supporters and pushed them inside Iraqi territory, taking advantage of the war circumstances and the preoccupation of the Iraqi Armed Forces and the official organs with confronting the U.S-Atlantic aggression. The Iranian regime set a date for starting acts of sabotage, looting, and murder in some Iraqi governorates. The agents of the Iranian regime, supported by Iranian infiltrators and demagogues, were trying to use the blind sectarian sedition as a means for controlling those governorates, disintegrating Iraq's unity, and realizing the dreams of "exporting the revolution" through armed force.

AL-QADISIYAH continues: It seems that Hashemi-Rafsanjani has abandoned what political analysts had considered an objective, scientific line and found that there is an opportunity to achieve Iran's expansionist objective in the region. Iraq has been its first objective since the emergence of the new regime after the downfall of Iran's shah. This regime imagined that the imbalance that took place in Iraq could be filled with groups of Iranian infiltrators and agents who were trained in Iranian camps. In this new page of the conspiracy—and after the mob created havoc and evil—the Iranian regime hastened to expose its cards openly. The Iranian media was clear in supporting the mob, encouraging them on killing and looting, and disseminating false and exaggerated news about their victories. The Iranian regime came under the illusion that it was capable of controlling events inside the Iraqi governorates. When the sedition was quelled and the Iranian regime felt that its hopes and dreams had been completely defeated, it revealed its hidden hostility toward Iraq and became the only source of the news of the sedition that had been quelled. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani suffered from the same delusion as Khomeyni when he felt that he could devour Iraq through agents and interfere in its internal affairs. This was the main reason for the outbreak of the war between Iraq and Iran on 4 September 1980 and for the tragedies and losses that were inflicted on the two countries.

AL-QADISIYAH asks: What does Hashemi-Rafsanjani want and what is his interest in returning to the worn-out slogans of exporting the revolution? Does he need another bloody round of the sedition kindled by his regime to comprehend the fact that Iraq is so impregnable that cannot be undermined by agents and mobs with the aim of fragmenting it? Will the political analysts be disappointed with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani after believing that he would spare Iran the evil of interfering in others' affairs and take care of its internal concerns? Or is his political structure the same but his course changeable in order to fit circumstances?

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Paper: Iraq Able To Surmount War Aftermath

JN1404101091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text]—Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that Iraq is able to overcome all the difficulties and problems created by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and the enemy coalition.

In an article today, the paper says Iraq has realized the magnitude and scale of the vicious conspiracy against the national will and unity of its people; it is a dirty conspiracy that is still being implemented.

The paper refers to Security Council Resolution 687, the unjust U.S. resolution that targets Iraq's capability, role, and progress. It says Iraq is capable of removing the aftermath of the aggression and the acts of sabotage and destruction perpetrated by hireling agents against the country's infrastructure.

The paper emphasizes that Iraq, rich as it is in its resources, human energies, and all factors of construction and resurgence, is able, through the concerted efforts of its brave sons, to overcome and surmount all difficulties and problems. This is possible as long as the people enjoy a united, cohesive will for construction and progress and have a firm belief in the future.

Vigilance Urged Against Plot To Topple Regime

JN1504085491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that the links in the anti-Iraq conspiracy have not been completed yet because events in the region demonstrate that hostile activities still exist.

The newspaper gives evidence of the enemies' plans against Iraq's peace and security, and states that the hostile plot was based on the idea of toppling the Iraqi regime and that all indications are that this aim continues to be the ultimate target and objective. The paper points out that the United States is the leader of this hostile movement and that U.S. officials continue to threaten to settle scores with Iraqi officials. George Bush recently announced it to Congress, the paper says.

AL-'IRAQ notes that the new international order sponsored by the United States certainly implies a new order in the region in harmony with this international order in terms of strategic calculations, political aims, and security arrangements.

The paper adds: The talk about wanting to bring Iraq back into the international community is crooked talk because it takes an "acceptable" Iraq to mean an alternative regime that would break Iraq's international isolation and pave the way for normal ties with the advanced states of Europe and America.

The paper says that what happened in southern and northern Iraq confirm that the international conspiracy is pinning its hopes on something more serious than these movements.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says the conspiracy must be faced, enemies confronted, and vigilance and alertness maintained to abort the hostile plot.

Paper Endorses Saddam's 'New Start'

JN1504090391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH strongly criticizes UN Security Council Resolutions 687 and 688 and says that they were passed to make it impossible for Iraq to start the work of reconstruction, to ensure that the big stick remains continuously brandished in its face, and to energize the conspiracy.

In an editorial published today, the paper adds that other chapters of the conspiracy sought by all means to render Iraq incapable of starting the process of reconstruction. This was made clear by the sedition, which constituted

another chapter in the conspiracy to destroy all that is vital to survival and human life, the paper says.

The paper indicates that the phrase "Let us have a new start" has become the catalyst for our renaissance, because the path of renaissance has no end.

AL-QADISIYAH, which is the mouthpiece of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, goes on to say: Our practical response to all conspiracies of the enemies is the following: "Let us have a new start," so that we can succeed and build the future.

The paper specifically refers to the catch phrase used by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn when he visited the Governorate of Irbil the day before yesterday. During this visit, the president said: Let us have a new start, because this is the key to our continued success and progress. Likewise, this will be a manifestation of Iraqi defiance, the paper says.

Concluding its editorial, AL-QADISIYAH asserts that a nation's real victory over the enemies lies in its ability to cope with ordeals and surmount difficulties.

Paper: U.S. Using Refugee Issue in New 'Plot'

JN1504101991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has accused those who are weeping over the problem of the refugees and bragging about human rights of creating the problem in all its dimensions. In today's editorial, headlined "A Plan Encroaching on Sovereignty," AL-THAWRAH says: Within the framework of political pressures, which are a continuation of the aggression and the conspiracy whose objectives, intentions, and dimensions have been exposed—and under the influence of the old colonialist mentality which allows blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs—talk continues openly or by implication about the possibility of establishing a so-called secure zone or pocket in northern Iraq within its national territory. The paper adds that this issue is being dealt with under false and deceptive cover [words indistinct] the conspiratorial imperialist and Zionist scheme against Iraq's unity, principles, and options.

AL-THAWRAH, the organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, stresses that such blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs is rejected in part and parcel no matter what kind of attempt is made to cover it up with weak pretexts and blatant slanders. The paper notes that this interference completely contradicts the essence of international law and all principles, values, and bases adopted in the rules, charters, and resolutions of the United Nations.

AL-THAWRAH says: This interference constitutes a serious precedent that could produce unfavorable complications and effects in violation of UN laws.

The Iraqi paper strongly attacks the Western media and their abnormal coverage of the problem of Kurdish refugees in Iraq near the Iraqi-Turkish border and the Iraqi-Iranian border. This is part of the major deception campaign and the intensive media and psychological warfare launched by the United States, and its Atlantic allies and others, within the framework of their conspiratorial schemes to harm Iraq, inflict material and moral damage on the country, and obstruct its stability and the efforts to secure the requirements of stability and rebuild what the aggression damaged.

The paper criticizes the Western media's disregard for the basic facts and factors of the problem and for the forces that played the first and direct role in creating the problem. These forces created the problem through terrorist acts launched from across the border—particularly across the Iranian and Turkish borders—and through Washington and the Zionist forces' encouragement, organization, financing, and material, political, and media support.

The paper adds that the foreign forces, together with cliques of terrorism recruited for known purposes and goals, are the ones who shoulder direct and complete responsibility for the results of the failed conspiracy and the destruction of the plot and plotters who committed the ugliest and most bestial forms of killing, looting, burning, and violation of honor.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The autonomous region of Kurdistan was a secure region that enjoyed stability and normality despite the economic blockade and military aggression. But the continued American conspiratorial scheme against Iraq made the United States use its tools and exploit inclinations toward covetousness, rancor, and revenge with the aim of destroying the Kurdish region, creating an abnormal situation to justify its blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and encroaching on its unity, sovereignty, and independent options.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH asserts that the United States, which created the sedition and which had a long arm in organizing the infiltration of terrorists across the border, wants to invest and employ the status of the refugees—which is one of the accidental byproducts and results of the conspiratorial scheme—to turn it into a new card and into the prelude to a new conspiratorial page against Iraq and its security and stability.

Mutilated Bodies Found in Rebel-Dug Mass Graves

JN1504195091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi authorities have discovered three mass graves in which the infiltrators and saboteurs buried the bodies of hundreds of citizens when they desecrated the city of al-Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq.

A film clip aired by Baghdad television tonight showed that the 370 bodies in one of these graves had been subjected to brutal and extremely ruthless torture.

Some persons had their eyes gouged out or their ears or noses cut off, while other bodies showed signs of beating, injuries, and being tied with ropes.

The bodies were of both Arabs and Kurds. Whole families are believed to be among the victims as bodies of women, old men, young men, and children of all ages and of both sexes were seen.

A number of mutilated heads, headless bodies, and amputated legs, arms, or shoulders were also found during the digging.

Refugees Report 'Heavy Encounters' Continue

LD1504211791 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Ahvaz, April 15, IRNA—Many Iraqis arriving in Iran through southern borders between Iran and Iraq today said heavy encounters between popular forces and government troops continue in al-Tannumah, al-Kahla, al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah,and al-Qurna.

They said popular forces in al-Kahla, Missan Province, blasted several Army tanks and vehicles, and seized many weapons, killing many Ba'thist soldiers and capturing one ranking government officer.

According to an informed source earlier this week, popular forces in Iraq raided positions of Ba'thist troops in al-Kahla killing 60 government soldiers and wrecking their vehicles.

Another report here today said that government troops in Iraq raided the houses of villagers in al-Tannumah and set them ablaze.

Across Shalamcheh which forms a straight border line between part of Iran's southern province Khuzestan and opposite al-Basrah of Iraq smoke was welling up into the sky today.

One Iraqi refugee said here today that many Iraq civilians had been trapped in toy-like or canned-food mine-traps and killed near the minicipality of al-Tannumah.

Opposition: Regime Helicopters Attacking Refugees

NC1404164291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The forces of the vanquished despot resumed their attacks on areas controlled by the revolutionaries and on other northern areas where the refugees had taken refuge. In the south the uprising fighters continued their attacks.

Hundreds of refugees were either killed or wounded over the past three days on the ridges and mountains overlooking al-Sulaymaniyah and on the roads leading to Turkey. The despot's forces are using helicopters, tanks, and artillery against the refugees despite the U.S. warning to the regime against the use of (?helicopters).

Rebels Claim Successes, Kill 80 Iraqi Troops

NC1404203791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1953 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] While a group of our heroic fighters continues to tighten the noose on the main road between 'Ali al-Gharbi and 'Ali al- Sharqi, other groups of our revolutionaries have ambushed the gangs of the Republican Guards on the same road.

We have received the following urgent report from the area: One of our revolutionary groups attacked a special force of the regime's gangs at 2000 today with various types of weapons and killed 80 troops. Our fighters seized weapons and equipment and managed to return to a secure area without any casualties.

Government Forces Fail To Retake Azmarka Heights

LD1504115291 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—The Iraqi Government forces failed to retake Azmarka Heights [placename as received], overlooking al-Sulaymaniyah, despite continuous attacks during the past two days, said an Iraqi Kurdish refugee in the border region of Shiller in Iran's Kordestan Province Monday.

He said forces from several regional Muslim countries and the outlawed Iranian Monafeqin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) helped Iraq in the attacks. Some 150 Iraqi forces were taken captive by Muslim Kurdish Peshmergas.

In an encounter with MKO members in Chulan [placename as received], northern Iraq, Muslim peshmergas killed 200 MKO members and seized 15 of their vehicles, said the refugee.

He added that the Iraqi regime in collaboration with the MKO members has leveled to the ground many Turkish and Kurdish populated districts in Kirkuk. They also arrested 15,000 youths in Kirkuk Province and transferred them to Ramadiyah prison.

IRNA Cited on Government-Resistance Fighting

LD1504120191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Reports from Iraq indicate that clashes between the popular forces and the republican forces continue in the cities of al-Basrah, al-Tannumah, al-Kahla, al-'Amarah, al-Zubayr, al-Nasiriyah, and al-Qurnah. According to IRNA, quoting several Iraqis who entered Iran across the southern borders, the popular forces in the city of Kahla in Mizhan Province succeeded in destroying several tanks and military vehicles, capturing a large amount of weapons, and arresting a number of persons, including a high-ranking Iraqi officer.

The refugees pointed to the clashes between people and Ba'thist forces in the al-Hammar District in the city of

al-Nasiriyah, Zighar Province, and said that the popular forces in this region inflicted some damage on the Republican Guard forces and set ablaze a number of armored vehicles. They said that clashes between people and government forces occur mainly during the night.

Another report talks of the crimes committed by the Ba'thists in setting afire peasants' houses around the city of al-Tannumah. According to this report, a ring of smoke that indicated that the dwellings of peasants close to al-Tannumah had been set ablaze could be seen from afar. The report cited an Iraqi refugee as saying: With its deadly silence in the face of crimes of the Iraqi regime, the United States is blatently supporting these crimes. He also talked of booby traps in the shape of food or toys that were planted near the Tanumah municipality building and said: As a consequence of this criminal deed, a number of innocent people have been killed.

Clashes With Army Reported in Al-Basrah, North

NC1504163491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1455 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Our revolutionary forces continue to chase the gangs of Saddam and his special guards in al-Basrah Governorate. A group of our heroic revolutionaries in al-Tannumah have attacked the 2d Regiment of the 20th Armored Brigade commanded by Captain Nahid, and an adjacent position of the same brigade commanded by Lieutenant Sabah. After being attacked, Cap. Nahid, Lt. Sabah, and their forces fled their positions. The revolutionaries captured the positions and called out to the fleeing officers to join the ranks of the intifadah. The officers rejected the offer and continued to run in the direction of Saddam's forces. The latter opened fire at them, ignoring their entreaties and the fact that they identified themselves. As a result, both Capt. Nahid, Lt. Sabah, as well as about 10 of their troops, were killed by the bullets of Saddam's henchmen and gangs. Their positions fell to the revolutionaries, who seized all the weapons they found there.

The regime is still trying to take control of the strongholds of our Kurdish revolutionaries in the north. In this context, a force from the 10th Armored Division attacked our heroic revolutionaries in the Salah al-Din and (Taklawa) areas on Friday. The attackers, however, were forced to retreat as they encountered the fire and resistance of the revolutionaries, leaving behind 18 charred bodies, including three officers. One of the dead officers was a major general and the other two were lieutenants.

As a result of that clash, the revolutionaries seized two tanks in working order, two mortar guns, three machine guns, and five RPG-7 [rocket-propelled grenade] launchers.

Rebels Attack Guards Unit in Al-Mansuriyah

NC1504165491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] According to a dispatch from Irbil, the forces of the tyrant are preventing large numbers of evacuees from fleeing, thus causing hundreds of children to die daily.

The defeated regime continues its inhuman acts. A number of people were killed when [booby-trapped] children's toys and cans of food exploded near the municipal building in al-Tannumah near al-Basrah. The defeated regime is also burning villagers' houses outside al-Tannumah.

In another development, the masses of the uprising have attacked a unit of Saddam's guards in al-Mansuriyah and set armored cars on fire. In another clash in Maysan region, the rebels destroyed several government tanks, seized large quantities of weapons, and captured a high-ranking Army officer and a number of soldiers.

Attacks on Regime Forces in Al-Nasiriyah Reported

NC1504211691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1945 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] We have received a report from al-Nasiriyah Governorate that our heroic revolutionaries have attacked the 50th Armored Brigade of the 12th Division in the area between al-Salam and al- Islah, inflicting losses including two vehicles, and killing some of Saddam's mercenaries.

Another group of our revolutionaries have attacked the regime's military post located between the al-Salam area and al-Nasiriyah, killing some of its personnel and routing the rest.

Our revolutionaries earlier attacked a military position in the al-Salam area, destroying a T-55 tank and killing a first lieutenant in Saddam's special forces and three of his aides.

A group of our heroic revolutionaries in al-Tannumah attacked the enemy positions of the 26th Armored Brigade on Monday night. The enemy personnel fled, one of the command posts of the brigade was taken over, and weapons and ammunition were seized. The next morning, our revolutionaries searched the area from which the enemy fled. They found military equipment, food supplies, and light- and medium-caliber weapons and took them to their positions.

Another group of revolutionaries attacked an enemy position in (?Tannumah). The enemy forces fled, leaving behind their weapons and dead. Our revolutionaries seized weapons and ammunition.

The popular resistance is continuing in the northern cities. Daily battles take place there, especially during the night. Meanwhile, the regime continues its (?pressure) on the revolutionary and liberated areas. The regime has moved a military force estimated at brigade size to the

area of al-'Ashshar and Kani Sharta in al-Sulaymaniyah area. Our Kurdish revolutionaries confronted it and [words indistinct] the brigade commander named Zuhayr and a number of fighters left Saddam's ranks and joined the revolutionary and popular ranks.

The popular resistance continues to act around Darbandikhan. The regime pushed a military force preceded by a group of tanks in the direction of (Sarbaj) area. After a violent two-hour battle, the revolutionary forces repulsed the attack. The bodies of approximately 30 soldiers of Saddam's mercenaries including two majors, one of whom is named Qasim Jabir Hasan, were seen on the battlefield. In addition, 15 soldiers joined the revolutionaries.

In al-Sulaymaniyah, our Kurdish revolutionaries defeated a regime force and expelled it from the heights of Azmar Gagh and Kusah after capturing 11 soldiers of the attacking force.

Our Kurdish revolutionaries had earlier expelled Saddam's mercenaries from the area of (Hudaj) in al-Sulaymaniyah after a battle in which the regime lost many of his forces. Those killed included Major Haris Ahmad Hasan, Captain Ghazi al-Samawi, and an intelligence officer named 'Izzat Malwan Akram .

In a desperate attempt to impose its control on the northern areas, the regime attacked (Tannuh) mountain in al-Sulaymaniyah. Our Kurdish revolutionaries repulsed the attack, inflicting heavy losses on the attacking gang. Four of Saddam's mercenaries were killed and 10 soldiers joined the revolutionary and uprising forces.

Kurds Reported Returning to Northern Governorates

NC1204191491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil, 12 Apr (INA)—Kurdish families continue to return to their homes from the border areas following the elimination of the traitors and agents of the foreigner, who committed acts of murder, destruction, arson, and looting in our dear north.

The al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate has welcomed the return of a new group consisting of thousands of families who arrived aboard buses and military and civilian vehicles supplied by the pertinent authorities to take them to their places of residence in the governorate's towns and villages.

A number of Kurdish families who were interviewed by the INA correspondent in the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate expressed their happiness over the restoration of security and stability in our dear north. [passage omitted]

The Irbil Governorate has welcomed more than 10,000 Kurdish families who have returned from the border areas to their places of residence in the governorate's towns and villages.

The pertinent authorities, in cooperation with public and party organizations, have contacted the fleeing citizens by various means and urged them to return home. They have been provided with everything they need for their return, including buses, food, and medicine.

One Million Kurds Still Waiting To Enter Iran

LD1304102191 Berne International Service in English 1000 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] The Swiss-based League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies says an estimated 1 million Kurdish refugees from Iraq are still waiting to cross into Iran. The League quoted one of its delegates as saying more than 70 km of roads in the Iran-Iraq border area were jammed with refugees. The delegate said the refugees were in desperate need of food, medication, and shelter.

The All-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has appealed for 100 million Swiss francs to support relief operations in Turkey and Iran as well as inside Iraq. A statement released in Geneva said that besides helping refugees, ICRC delegates were focusing their efforts on repatriating prisoners of the Gulf war and on tracing missing persons.

Kurdish Families Continue To Return to North

NC1304145691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Kurdish families are continuing to return to our dear North following the elimination of the saboteurs and agents of the foreigner who committed murder and engaged in destruction in the towns and villages. The INA reporter in the northern governorates said that the reception center in the ('Arbad) region has welcomed thousands of Kurds who had left their homes to escape the terrorism of the forces of evil and sin, the followers of the foreigner. He said that the pertinent authorities in the ('Arbad) region have provided all essential needs, medical services, and transportation for the returning families. This will help restore security and stability to their lives after the hardships they endured from the armed agent saboteurs who forced them to leave their homes.

More Kurdish Families Return to Irbil Governorate

JN1504102391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Irbil, 15 Apr (INA)—There has been a continuing influx of Kurdish families from Iraq's mountains and borders to the towns and villages of Irbil Governorate in response to the amnesty issued by the Revolution Command Council. The returning families greeted the singular and wise leadership of President Saddam

Husayn in his heroic and decisive confrontation of the evil plot to strike at the unity of the Iraqi people and encroach on their great achievements. [passage omitted]

Kurds 'Pour Into' Dahuk; Governor Comments

JN1504110391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0947 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Dahuk, 15 Apr (INA)—Kurdish families have continued to pour into the cities, villages, and hamlets of Dahuk Governorate following the restoration of security and stability in Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Dahuk Governor Muhammad Bayrur Rustum said that the governorate's technical and administrative agencies, using the help provided by the Armed Forces with vehicles and equipment, have undertaken a campaign to remove the debris and clean the governorate's streets and courtyards.

The governor added that the administrative agencies used the Armed Forces' equipment and vehicles to clean and organize the governorate's streets and courtyards, and also to clean the departments and institutions affected by the criminal mob attacks, as the forces of tyranny and aggression destroyed, damaged, and burned the municipality's equipment and vehicles as well as those of service institutions.

The governor reported that commercial stores and restaurants resumed their normal activities. He said that normalcy has been restored in all the governorate's districts, subdistricts, and hamlets.

Tuz Khurmatu 'Totally Razed' by Ba'thists

LD1204174191 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 12, IRNA—An Iraqi refugee told IRNA here today that he personally witnessed the bombardment of the defenceless civilians by the Iraqi planes' which dropped napalm and phosphoric bombs.

Rashid Fu'ad Hasan, a resident of the Turkoman populated town of Tuz Khurmatu, northeastern Iraq, said the townspeople were strafed by Ba'thists and heavily shelled by forces of the Iranian terrorist group the munafeqin (hypocrites - MKO) [Mujahedin-e Khalq] before they could flee their hometown. With tears rolling down his cheeks the youth said "Iraqi choppers hunted us down like animals during our flight for well over a kilometre from the town, killing many people, including my brother and a friend." Voice choking with emotion, Hasan cried: "Where are the human rights, and what right has the accursed Saddam (Husayn) to rule over Iraq when people do not want him?"

The town of Tuz Khurmatu, has since been totally razed to the ground by the Ba'thist forces, which are employing mercenaries from other countries to quell the popular uprising sweeping Iraq. Whole populations in some southern Iraqi towns have been wiped out by the Ba'thist forces, which to avenge their humilating defeat at the hands of the American led coalition, have also desecrated the holy cities of al-Najaf and Karbala', indulging in wanton killings of women, children and the aged.

Another Iraqi refugee, student Majid Salih, said the Ba'thist forces in cooperation with the MKO outlaws attacked a bus in the only street of the town of the northeastern Iraqi town of Kallar, killing all 25 passengers abroad.

"The Ba'thists and the Munafeqin also attacked a hospital in Kallar, killing all the patients as well as the staff including two women physicians." Commenting on the so-called amnesty declared by Saddam he scoffed "we are not going to be decieved by that bloodthirsty butcher once again, and God willing this time will bring him to justice."

He disclosed that several families from the city of Darbandikhan who were simple enough to believe in "Saddam's sick joke" were all killed on returning to their city. Saddam, said Salih, had drawn elaborate plans to wipe [out] both Kurds and the Iraqi Arabs, "groaning under his tyranny for years" and to populate the country with foreign mercenaires. As part of their scorched earth policy, Ba'thist forces have been destroying all the villages around Kallar, Darbandikhan Kifri and Tuz Khurmatu since 1985.

Similar wide-scale destruction was reported from the south around al-Nasiriyah, Samawah, and Shaykh al-Shuyakh, especialy in the last named where Ba'thist mercenaries slaughtered almost the whole population, not even sparing children and women.

However, despite the brutalities, resistant forces reported continuing clashes both in the Kurdish north and the Arab south against the regime, which is finding it difficult to control Iraq.

Opposition Radio Details Resistance Operations

NC1204154691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1417 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Continuing their comprehensive and heroic acts of resistance, a group of our valiant revolutionaries carried out a triple [thulathi] attack against a strategic military position of the regime in the al-Musharrah area of al-'Amarah Governorate. The attack targeted the tanks and armored vehicles stationed at this position, some of which had been hidden in the gardens of homes, schools, and public service installations.

The attack, which took place in the early hours of 11 April, left 30 of Saddam's special troops dead, including a Lieutenant Dawud, and others wounded.

Meanwhile, our [word indistinct] revolutionary troops advanced toward the headquarters of the regime's lackeys in al-Musharrah and destroyed it, after seizing the documents kept there. This courageous operation, in which our revolutionaries captured a large amount of

weapons and ammunition, lasted four hours. One revolutionary was wounded in the operation.

In implementation of the new strategy of staging wide-scale and violent attacks against the pillars of the regime, a group of our revolutionaries carried out a massive night attack against the headquarters of the 21st Brigade in the area of al-Tannumah, where an assortment of armored vehicles and heavy-caliber antiaircraft guns was deployed. The attack, which took place in the early hours of 10 April, left Brigade Commander Lieutenant Colonel 'Abbas al- Diyali dead. The personnel of the brigade were freed and some armored vehicles were destroyed. Some of the heavy-caliber antiaircraft guns, including one [word indistinct], some vehicles, and a large amount of ammunition were seized. [passage omitted]

In another development and as part of the continuing resistance operations by al-Basrah's rebellious people, a group of our heroic revolutionaries laid an ambush in the area between al-Madinah and al-Shubaykah. The revolutionaries destroyed two military vehicles belonging to Saddam's criminal troops. Four people were killed and six more wounded in the ambush, and the revolutionaries seized weapons belonging to this force. This heroic operation is part of a series of recent operations which have made the roads unsafe for the regime's gangs.

Clandestine on Gains by 'Popular Forces' in South

LD1204142291 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Popular forces attacked the headquarters of the Iraqi Government's Brigade 21 in the al-Tannumah region last night, killing its commander Lieutenant-Colonel 'Abbas al-Diyali, reported Voice of Revolutionary Iraq today.

"During the operation, 5 armoured vehicles of the Ba'thist forces were totally destroyed and an assortment of weapons including anti-aircraft guns, armoured cars and ammunitions were seized by the revolutionaries," said the radio, beaming its broadcasts from an unidentified spot inside Iraq.

In northern Iraq, it said, Kurdish peshmergas captured Sultan heights, killing and wounding a large number of the Ba'thist troops, and also repelled with heavy losses a counter-attack launched by Ba'thist forces to retake the Azmar heights.

Elsewhere, in its broadcasts, which are becoming popular all over Iraq, the radio scoffed as "pure lies" the claims of the governor-general of al-Basrah that the port-city was under government control.

"Al-Basrah was rocked by 14 explosions only yesterday, as resistance continues against Ba'thist rule," said the Voice of Revolutionary Iraq.

Explosions in al-Basrah are clearly audible on the Iranian side of the border in Khorramshahr.

"Popular forces also ambushed a Ba'thist convoy between al-Madinah and al-Shubaykah in al-Basrah Province, destroying two armoured cars and killing ten soldiers," it said.

The radio said large amount of arms were captured by the Iraqi revolutionaries during the operation.

Despite its brutal massacres of tens of thousands of people in southern Iraq, and its use of foreign mercenary forces, the Ba'thist regime is finding it increasingly difficult to contain the popular uprising in northern and southern Iraq.

Northern Towns Said Under Insurgents' Control

LD1204135291 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The masses of the popular uprising have been able to impose their control on the administrative areas of Raniyah and Salah al-Din and purge them of the despot Saddam Husayn's gangsters. Fierce battles are being fought in other parts of the northern part of the homeland. The insurgents of the uprising in the south have been able to take control of the (Kahlat) region after expelling the despot's mercenaries and inflicting heavy losses on them; they fled toward the town of al-'Amarah.

Rebel Officers Urge 'Morality' From Counterparts

NC1404155291 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The officers of the popular uprising, a group of Iraqi Army officers who have left the regime's ranks and joined the uprising, have issued a statement addressed to the Iraqi Army's officers urging them to refrain from attacking their own people. They also called on them to shoulder their responsibility for their homeland.

Addressing the officers, the statement says: Do not forget that you should adopt a stand regarding your people. Those of you who obey the regime's orders are relinquishing religion, humanity, and morality.

In conclusion, the statement calls on the Iraqi Army officers to reject the orders first-discussion later principle, and replace it with the think-then-act principle.

Rebels Ambush Military Convoy, 'Control' Highway

NC1404082791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0633 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] A group of our revolutionaries in the 'Ali-al-Gharbi area have ambushed a military convoy on the 'Ali-al-Gharbi-'Ali al-Sharqi highway. The convoy commander, a captain in the Republican Guard, was killed. Our revolutionaries managed to liberate the rest of the convoy personnel and evacuated them to asafer area.

Last Thursday, our revolutionaries tightened their control of a section of the highway between 'Ali-al-Gharbi and 'Ali al-Sharqi.

'Revolutionary Committees' Execute 'Collaborators'

NC1404082691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0633 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Revolutionary committees in al-Basrah are still tailing the mercenaries who are collaborating with the authorities.

According to reports from the steadfast city, our revolutionary committees in al-Qurnah chased and arrested an organization member named 'Ali Hamdun. The committees executed him after an intrerrogation and trial.

In al-Qurnah, our heroic revolutionaries were able to chase and arrest Mu'tazz Nuri, who had a leading role in hurting the city's revolutionaries. The committees executed him after an interrogation and trial. Now he knows the taste of what his hands reaped.

The revolutionary committees in various Iraqi cities had issued ultimatums warning betrayers of the people and homeland against continuing to hurt the revolutionaries.

Regime Allegedly Executes 20 Scholars in Al-Najaf

NC1304085091 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Continuing the policy of repression and persecution pursued by Saddam's regime against our oppressed Muslim people, the ruling regime in Baghdad executed 20 religious scholars in the holy city of al-Najaf. The scholars had been arrested earlier by the regime's cronies.

This criminal act is part of an attempt by dictator Saddam to control the situation in the holy city of al-Najaf. It is another link in the chain of the crimes Saddam has committed against Islam and its scholars.

Regime Reportedly Destroys Karbala' Shrines

LD1304083191 Tehran IRNA in English 0714 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, April 13, IRNA—In its latest crime, the Iraqi regime has demolished graves of those who fought to death alongside Imam Husayn, the third imam of household of Prophet Muhammad, in the holy city of Karbala', a spokesman of the Iraqi opposition told IRNA here Friday [12 April].

He said that the aggressive Iraqi forces have destroyed the holy shrines in a bid to stop people from taking refuge there.

According to the spokesman, more than 60,000 residents of Karbala' have been arrested and persecuted by the Ba'thist forces and members of five families opposing the regime have been burnt to death.

Seven youths from al-Basrah have also been executed on charges of writing anti-Saddam graffiti on the walls, he said.

Stressing that operations by the revolutionary forces still continue, he stated that they have killed or injured tens of the Presidential Guards in the southern city of al-'Amarah on Thursday and Friday.

Forces Attack Refugees Along Iranian Border

LD1504172691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Last night, in the area opposite Tileh Kuh, in Pol-e Zahab, Iraqi forces chased Iraqi Kurdish refugees to the border and killed or injured a number of them. According to an IRNA report, the Iraqi forces, supported by 15 tanks, blocked the entry point of the Iraqi refugees in the area and brought the homeless men, women, and children under heavy fire, killing a number of them. At present, Iraqi tanks and forces are stationed in the area.

Kurdish Guerrillas Claim Combat Successes

LD1504160591 Berlin ADN in German 1525 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus (ADN)—The Kurdish guerilla fighters say they have stopped the offensive of the Iraqi troops and launched counterattacks in several areas. ADN has learned from the Kurdistan Front in Damascus that peshmerga attacked an Army position on the Zab'as Saghir river near al-Sulaymaniyah. In the town itself government units are said to have been attacked by Kurdish commandos. The rebels were now operating a "hit and run" strategy. They advance into towns mainly at night and retreat back into the mountains after brief fighting.

The spokesman of the Kurdistan Front further announced that since this morning fighting has been going on around Zakhu in the far northwest of Iraq. Two weeks ago the peshmerga had to give up the town. From Zakho it is possible to control the Tigris passage between Syria and Iraq. This was one of the rebel's most important supply routes until it was cut by Saddam Husayn's forces at the beginning of April.

Radio Claims Regime Detaining Police Officials

NC1504144591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The masses of the popular uprising in the north repulsed an attack by the tyrant's forces on (Jabal Yamir) two days ago. The masses inflicted heavy losses on the attacking force and captured dozens of its members. The masses have also repulsed another attack in ('Arbad Burkani Talka), which is less than 30 km away from al-Sulaymaniyah, and captured the commander of the attacking force, Colonel (Zuhayr).

Meanwhile, the masses of holy al-Najaf have continued their acts of valor in recent days. These masses liquidated some criminal elements whose hands were stained with our people's blood during the genocide operations

the defeated regime carried out against innocent and unarmed women and civilians.

The regime has also mounted a campaign of repression and made widespread arrests of police officials in the rebelling governorates of Iraq, a sign that the defeated regime of the tyrant has lost confidence in its organs of oppression.

The regime is holding the police officials at a detention camp, where they are being deprived of food and water in a bid to starve them to death. This is being done on the orders of criminal [Interior Minister] 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, who supervised the arrests.

The tyrant's forces recently searched homes in the rebelling towns and confiscated all the food they found. The defeated regime has also imposed progressive fines on primary, intermediary, and secondary school students. Primary school students must pay 50 dinars each, intermediary school students must pay 100 dinars each, and secondary school students must pay 150 dinars each.

Kurdish Party 'Statement' Denounces Iran, Turkey

JN1404143291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—The Political Office of the Kurdish Democratic Party has denounced the rioting and the racist, sectarian sedition created by foreign agents who came from outside our borders to enact the second chapter of the American-Atlantic-Zionist conspiracy against our struggling country.

In a statement at the conclusion of its central committee meetings, the office said the U.S.-led imperialist-Zionist conspiracy was not the result of the 2 August events or their aftermath, but goes back to the day when Iraq began acquiring modern technology and engaging in military and civilian industrialization to achieve a balance of forces to curb violence by the Zionist entity.

The statement added that the purpose of the unjust war launched by the allied forces against Iraq was primarily to wipe out the Iraqi civilization and infrastructure and to strip its people of all that could help it restructure for the future.

The statement held the Iranian and Turkish Governments responsible for the destruction and tragedies befalling the Kurds in Turkey and Iran. It added that those Kurds are denied the most basic legitimate nationalist rights and are being subjected to oppression and torture because of their Kurdish affiliation and their legitimate aspirations for their people in Turkey and Iran to acquire even a small fraction of the nationalist rights their brother Kurds have achieved in Iraq, such as the autonomy law.

The statement denied the Turkish and Iranian regimes' false allegations that Kurds in Iraq are being persecuted. It said that Kurds in Iraq enjoy their rights in full and now are leading a secure and stable life, enjoying full freedom after elimination of the rioting and sedition that came from outside the borders.

Kurdistan Front Leader Criticizes U.S., Allies

AU1104152791 Vienna WOCHENPRESSE in German 11 Apr 91 pp 28-29

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of he Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and president of the Kurdistan Front, by Lucian O. Meysels; place and date not given: "A Shame for the Entire World"]

[Text] [Meysels] The world has left the Kurdish peoplein the lurch. Is the situation of the Kurds hopeless at the moment?

[Talabani] No one can live completely without hop. Millions of Kurds are willing and determined to strugg for freedom, democracy, and human rights until vic tory—no matter how utopian this may sound today.

[Meysels] Despite the superiority of the enemy and the passivity of the world?

[Talabani] Saddam Husayn's crimes against the entire Iraqi people have exceeded all previously known limits, and the international community is looking on and doing nothing. But this cannot break the will of our terribly afflicted people. The situation of the Kurds is not hopeless because Saddam Husayn's character is known to all the people today—in contrast to the past—and at least the public now supports the Kurds as never before.

[Meysels] Saddam Husayn claims that he has completely crushed the uprising. Are the Kurds still ready to go on fighting?

[Talabani] We did not choose the armed struggle. It was forced on us by Saddam Husayn. During all their history, the Kurdish people have always been ready for dialogue, and we would have preferred a peaceful solution over fighting. But Saddam did not leave us any other possibility. The Kurdistan Front has always been involved in political demands, that is, an appropriate solution to the so-called Kurdish problem. As long as these demands are not fulfilled, however,I do not see any reason to stop the fighting. Solving the Kurdish problem is linked with the observation of human rights in all of Iraq and democratization. The precondition for that would be Saddam Husayn's ouster.

[Meysels] Were the Kurdish people deceived by the allies in the Gulf war or at least tricked?

[Talabani] Not only the Kurdish people but the entire Iraqi population were deceived, because President George Bush and many other politicians called on the Iraqi people to rise up and overthrow Saddam Husayn. With the approval of the allies a transmitter, "Voice of Free Iraq," was set up, which also called for an uprising. I must stress one thing: This uprising is not a movement

of the Kurds but of the entire Iraqi people, that is, also of the Shi'ites, Sunnis, Christians, and laicists.

[Meysels] But the initial successes were not enough....

[Talabani] The rebels were left in the lurch at the decisive moment, when—in contrast to the cease-fire agreements—Saddam was permitted to use any kind of planes, helicopters, heavy artillery, gasoline and napalm-phosphorous bombs. Only in this way was Saddam able tocontinue his genocide.

[Meysels] And the allies speak of "non-interference"....

[Talabani] From this point of view, the United States and the entire international community have brought themselves to a dubious position. On the one hand, a mini-world war was waged for the observation of human rights in Kuwait, which was unavoidable, also in my view, but, on the other hand, the Kurds and the other Iraqis are deprived of the elementary human rights within the framework of the CSCE Charter, which was also signed by President Bush.

[Meysels] President Bush claimed that he does not want to be dragged into the internal affairs of Iraq....

[Talabani] He would not have had to interfere, because his troops already were on Iraqi territory. In short: The international community has shown once again that it cannot live up to its role.

[Meysels] Would the Kurds have risen up even if Bush had not called for an uprising?

[Talabani] I have to correct one thing. The leadership of the Kurds has never called for an uprising, nor has any other opposition group. After the appeal of the Americans, spontaneous and unorganized demonstrations erupted everywhere. The Peshmerga fighters were outside the towns, and only later did we decide to support the demonstrators. It is also forgotten that the 150,000 allegedly loyal Kurdish militia and large parts of the Iraqi Army defected to us. Therefore, one cannot claim that the political forces initiated the uprising.

[Meysels] Does it seem possible to you that President Bush's passive attitude has been determined by consideration for the Turks or the fear of a fundamentalist Shi'ite state?

[Talabani] President Bush's change of mind is incomprehensible to me simply because a Shi'ite state, following the Iranian model, could not be realized in Iraq at all. Iraq's Shi'ites are a minority and not organized in fundamentalist parties. In addition, the Iraqi Kurds have stressed repeatedly that they would support a democratic regime in Baghdad.

[Meysels] And the Turks?

[Talabani] I was in Turkey myself last month. An official Turkish delegation stressed in talks with me that a democratic solution to the Kurdish problem in Iraq does not constitute any danger to Turkey. President Turgut Ozal also stressed this. Therefore, I do not understand any potential fears on the part of the Turks. All oppositional forces of Iraq stressed at their conference in Damascus that they are not striving to divide Iraq. They only demand a solution to the Kurdish problem within the framework of a future democratic, unified Iraqi state.

[Meysels] No matter how we interpret it, the whole affair is a shame for the entire civilized world. What do you still expect from the international community?

[Talabani] I can only agree completely with the first sentence you just said. Regarding our expectations, I can say only one thing: In hindsight, one realizes that three of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, namely Great Britain, France, and (tsarist) Russia, were responsible for the arbitrary division of the region at the beginning of this century. Therefore, they have the moral duty to make good at least part of the damage—by first, preventing mass murder by Saddam; second, solving the Kurdish question within the framework of an international conference; and, third, as Austria proposed, establishing a buffer zone along the Iraqi-Iranian and the Iraqi-Turkish border to protect the hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees.

[Meysels] What do you expect from Austria in addition?

[Talabani] Hundreds of thousands of people, men, women, old people, and children are fleeing. Hundreds have already died. I am asking for any kind of help, but, at the same time, I would like to thank the Austrian Government for its quick emergency aid and its political dedication—in particular those politicians of all parties, who have personally advocated our cause.

SAIRI Spokesman Supports UN-Supervised Area

JN1404065291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] A spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has said that all Iraqis denounce the oppression and massacres perpetrated by the Iraqi regime, which claims it is sending aid to the refugees who fled its massacres and brutal oppression in northern Iraq.

In a statement distributed yesterday, the spokesman said the regime's claims came at a time when the European Community is discussing a plan to establish UN-supervised areas to protect the inhabitants of the north from the oppression, terrorism and brutal massacres perpetrated by the regime. The spokesman expressed satisfaction with the EC efforts to protect the Iraqi people and support their just cause. He welcomed the Luxembourg foreign minister's call for the overthrow of the Saddam Husayn regime. The spokesman said the Iraqi regime practices terrorism inside and outside Iraq, and that the world, especially the EC, which adopts

positive positions in favor of the Iraqi people, should not deal with the regime's embassies.

Opposition Leader Vows To Continue 'Intifadah'

LD1404093291 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] (Ahmad al-Hakim), one of the Iraqi opposition leaders, stressed that the level of destruction caused by the forces of tyrant Saddam Husayn in Iraq exceeds the destruction brought about by the forces of the international coalition during the Gulf war, which ended in a crushing defeat of the tyrant's regime. (Al-Hakim) added that nobody saw Saddam's aircraft, tanks, or his internationally banned weapons being used during the Gulf war. But everybody witnessed these weapons used against our Iraqi people. (Al-Hakim) emphasized that the intifadah continues inside Iraq and that it will be crowned with success, God willing, because all Iraqis are against Saddam, the dictator, and that only a clique of supporters and profiteers are siding with him. The coming days will prove that those who sided with the tyrant were wrong in their calculations. (Al-Hakim) pointed out that the adventure of the absolute dictator regarding Kuwait caused the fragmentation of the Arab and Islamic word, whereas the truth of the tyrant's slogans regarding unity was exposed. (Al-Hakim) called on the Islamic world to set aside its differences and pursue the path of unity and responsible action through democracy from which we have no other recourse.

Levi Briefs on Baker Visit, Stands on Peace

TA1604111291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today discussed, among other things, Baker's next visit to Israel in two days. Deputy Minister Pinhas Goldstein asked the foreign minister whether Baker's third visit had been coordinated with the Israeli Government. Knesset Member Yosi Sarid said he was surprised by this question, saying: Baker is coming from far away to make peace in the region. What exactly should he coordinate?

Foreign Minister David Levi's response did not directly address the fact that when it came to the date for the visit, the United States made do with a laconic announcement. We will continue to work toward the promotion of the process, after Baker updates us, replied Foreign Minister Levi. According to the reports that have come in so far, the Arab countries have not shut the door or rejected the ideas. There are some positive elements, and there are other things whose implementation we must still seek. Later Levi detailed the list of agreements reached with the United States to date. The regional meeting, he stated, in no way resembles an international conference.

'Uzi Bar'am disagreed with the foreign minister on this point, saying that the regional meeting is actually an international conference, although without Europe's participation so far.

Foreign Minister Levi said: We have not yet held a debate on the list of members of the Palestinian delegation, but clearly such a representation should accept the Israeli Government's May 1989 initiative.

Elyaqim Ha'etzni asked about the PLO in Tunis and its participation—direct or indirect—in the negotiations. He did not hear a reply from the foreign minister on this point.

Yosi Sarid argued that the establishment of the settlement at Revava or the trash [play on words: revava-gevava], as he called it, two days prior to Baker's arrival in the region is akin to planting a bomb on his plane.

Shamir Message to Baker Rejects Global Conference

TA1604111991 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Apr 91 p 4

[Report by Washington correspondent Yo'el Esteron and New York correspondent Yosi Werther]

[Excerpt] Following consultations with EC leaders, the U.S. Administration is formulating a compromise proposal between Israel's and Syria's demands concerning the character of the regional conference. According to this proposal, the conference would convene for an opening session, at the end of which direct negotiations about a peace process "along two tracks" would start between the Israeli delegation and the delegations of the Arab countries and the Palestinians. Concurrently, the conference would continue to serve as a "forum" for the discussion of regional cooperation on such issues as water, economic matters, disarmament and ecology.

The U.S. Administration hopes that this compromise, whose details have yet to be finalized, will meet, on the one hand, Israel's demands that the conference be only an "opening" to be immediately followed by direct negotiations and, on the other, Syria's demand that the conference continue after the opening.

In a message he sent yesterday to Secretary of State James Baker, the prime minister states that Israel will not agree that the regional conference discuss the two-track peace process beyond the opening session. HADASHOT has learned that in his message, Shamir voices anxiety that an "international conference" might become "the source of authority" which would tip the scales in the event of a disagreement between the sides. Shamir emphasizes the need for a direct dialogue between the sides on the question of the peace process but, as far as is known, he does not rule out the compromise being drafted by the U.S. Administration. It has also been learned that Shamir does not object to a European presence in the "opening."

Baker and Shamir have in the last few days exchanged urgent messages containing new ideas for settling the disputed issues between Israel and Syria. It has been learned that the messages between Washington and Jerusalem were exchanged after Baker's meeting with the Syrian president and that they deal with the character of the regional conference, including the international auspices that would be bestowed upon it. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Annoyed With Handling of Baker Trip

TA1604053891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker may launch a shuttle tour of the Middle East capitals at the end of the week in a bid to accelerate contacts in preparation for the convocation of the regional conference. Meanwhile, Jerusalem has expressed its annoyance with the way in which the State Department announced Baker's arrival in Israel at the end of Independence Day. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

Jerusalem appreciates Secretary Baker for his untiring efforts to promote regional peace. He is expected here on Thursday [18 April] for the third visit in six weeks, but all the appreciation notwithstanding, people here are growing less and less enamored of the way the Americans announce their arrival. No consultations were held on the appropriate time; they simply announced that they are on their way, and that is that.

This time the visit will start at the end of Independence Day, namely in two days. Jerusalem has already talked about the method of coercion, and because Israel is interested in promoting the political process, people here are preparing for the next—though not the last—round of talks with Baker. I say this because Jerusalem believes that after his talks with Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister Levi, and Defense Minister Arens on Friday, Baker will depart for the Arab countries and may return here next week, thereby conceivably firing the starting gun for a Kissinger-style shuttle tour between Israel, Cairo, Damascus, and Amman.

The objective is to hold a regional conference to be held as early as this summer and to sustain this forum in some fashion even after the opening ceremony, which was originally planned as a one-time event. The method will probably be immoderate pressure on all the parties to make concessions and thereby make progress possible. One suggestion to Israel is that the settlement drive be halted in exchange for the lifting of the Arab boycott; King Husayn should examine Israel's proposal and agree to include the Palestinian representatives in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the negotiations; Hafiz al-Asad is still demanding an international conference; and the European countries also want a foothold in the regional meeting, but Israel objects to this.

The prime minister is due back from London tonight. During the brief interval between that time and Baker's arrival, Shamir, Levi, and Arens will hold consultations tomorrow in anticipation of Friday's talks.

So Baker, representing the American juggernaut, will be here again in an effort to dry up the Middle East bog once and for all.

Plane en Route to Turkey With Supplies for Kurds

TA1604050091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] An Israel Air Force Hercules transport plane is due to land in Turkey within the hour bringing several tons of medical equipment, blankets, and clothing for distribution to Kurdish refugees along the Iraqi-Turkish border. The humanitarian aid was organized by the Ministries of Defense, Health, and Foreign Affairs, together with Magen David Adom [emergency medical service] and voluntary groups.

Arens Favors Continued Expansion of Settlements

TA1604101791 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu, Pe'er-li Shahar, Moti Bassok, and U.S. correspondent Qeren Neubach]

[Excerpt] On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's return visit to Israel for another round of talks, Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated yesterday in a special interview with 'AL HAMISHMAR on the occasion of Independence Day that the expansion of settlements in the territories should be pursued. "I support Jewish settlement in the territories," Arens said, "because it is very important. The territories are vital to the State of Israel's security."

According to the defense minister, our control over the territories is directly linked to the number of Jews residing in the area. "Any fool can understand that! If there are 100,000 Jews in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, the danger that we might lose our control over the area is obviously smaller than it was in the days when there were 500 Jews there," he said.

Arens favors municipal elections in the territories, but believes that under the present circumstances, these cannot be held because terrorist gangs terrorize and intimidate potential Arab candidates. "Every day people are brutally killed there. One of the two who were killed the day before Baker's visit was decapitated and the other had his legs chopped off. Horrible things are being perpetrated there. Women are being raped before they are murdered," the defense minister said.

On the eve of Baker's second [as published] visit to Israel, Arens said that there are certain signs pointing to the possibility of direct negotiations with Syria, although this cannot yet be stated for certain. [passage omitted]

Sharon Says Shamir, Cabinet Aware of Settlements

TA1504173791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said that construction in the settlements is taking place with the full knowledge of the government and with the blessing of the prime minister. He added that he is merely carrying out the government's policy, which all cabinet ministers are obliged to do. He called on any ministers who oppose the construction work in the settlements to stand up and voice their opposition in public. Ari'el Sharon was appearing before the Likud's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports.

[Begin recording] [Raz] Even if there is nothing new in Sharon's statements, the way they were formulated and their timing may give them additional import. For example, before Secretary of State Baker's visit he spoke of applying Israeli law in the territories in areas inhabited by Jews. As for any issue pertaining to construction in the settlements, Sharon reminded the audience—while actually directing his statements at his cabinet colleagues—of the principle of collective responsibility.

[Sharon] In effect, what the government is doing now—and I am carrying out the matter in its name—is implementing government decisions, with the government's knowledge, and with the knowledge and blessing of the prime minister. I am telling my colleagues: Please, if you

are opposed to settlement, go ahead and do what I am doing—stand up in public and declare that you are against settlement. This is part of the government's basic guidelines. A person can try to convince people of other positions. I am trying to convince people of my position on the political issue, but as long as I am a member of the cabinet—and I have no other plans—I am also responsible for the May 1989 plan, because I am a cabinet member. The entire government shares responsibility for the issue of settlement in exactly the same way.

[Raz] The Likud's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, headed by Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau, is the most hawkish body in the movement, even though many of its members are veteran Likud officials who are identified with Shamir and Arens. Sharon was also asked at this forum whether all his criticism of the government was not just to get a more senior post. Sharon made use of the opportunity to get back at Foreign Minister Levi, without mentioning his name of course. He launched a scathing attack on the ministers who assert that everything is open—those who are willing to negotiate with the people who danced on the roofs.

No-Confidence Motions on Revava; Timing Queried

TA1604102891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Five Knesset factions are submitting motions of no confidence in the government. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that they are the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], MAPAM [United Workers Party], Shinuy, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], and the Arab Democratic Party. All the factions are submitting their motions against the backdrop of construction work at the settlements and the establishment of Revava. MAPAM and HADASH want to express no confidence in the government also for its responsibility for mass unemployment. At its session next week, the Alignment will probably discuss Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Shahal's proposal to submit a motion of no confidence against the government.

Speaking on behalf of the CRM, MK Yosi Sarid said today that the establishment of Revava two days before the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Baker is tantamount to planting a bomb on his plane.

Health Minister Ehud Olmert said that with respect to the establishment of settlements, one should be satisfied with cabinet resolutions on their timing and location. Speaking to our correspondent Arye Gus, Minister Olmert said that he believes the ceremony of populating the settlement could have been put off by a few days, because the worst thing that can happen is to create the impression that we are misleading others. He said that if Israel believes it is necessary to establish settlements in accordance with government resolutions, it would be best to say so and take open action, even if this policy creates arguments with the United States. What we must not do is create the impression that we are operating on the sly.

Gush Emunim 'Secretly' Sets Up New Settlement

TA1604043991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Gush Emunim last night secretly established its new settlement Revava, near Yaqir Junction in Samaria. Ze'ev Hever, the secretary general of Amana [Gush Emunim's settlement body], has told the Voice of Israel that 14 mobile homes were brought to the site and that right now they are being connected to electricity and water grids. He claims that the first settler families will come to Revava this morning.

In reply to a question, Hever said that this is a private settlement; therefore, it does not require approval by the government. The mobile homes were set up at the location even though the area was declared a closed military zone yesterday.

Settlement Coordinated With IDF

TA1604054391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Uri Ari'el, the secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, has denied that Gush Emunim advanced the date for settling Revava in Samaria after hearing about Secretary Baker's arrival in two days. [passage omitted]

He said that the operation was coordinated with all the relevant bodies, including the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], down to the finest detail.

The Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy said in reaction to the stationing of the mobile homes in Revava that Gush Emunim has again employed sly methods and behaved like a cat burglar to create faits accomplis. The three movements have told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that they will do everything—legally, parliamentarily, and operationally—to make sure that Revava does not exist and does not constitute capitulation to the right wing's extortionism.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this morning prevented our correspondent Gil Litman from entering the area with the argument that this closed military zone is off limits to the press.

Palestinian Official on International Talks

TA1204105691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Report by territories correspondent Udi Segal]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, who was released from Junayd Prison this morning, was

received by Faysal al-Husayni, Bassam al-Sa'ih, Ahmad al-Tibi, and a delegation of Arab notables from Israel and the territories.

Abu-'Ayyash, who has been removed from the political arena, takes a favorable view of the meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker:

[Begin Abu-'Ayyash recording, in English] I think any move that will lead to concrete solution and put an end for our problem will be welcome. Palestinians will lose nothing if they meet with anybody and talk about peace. [end recording]

He stressed: We must consider every step we make carefully and favorably. He takes a similar approach to the matter of municipal elections: It should be probed carefully, he says.

As for the regional conference concept presented by James Baker, he says that the idea should be examined only as a part of an international conference.

[Begin Abu-'Ayyash recording, in English] I did not know the details yet. What does it mean, the regional conference? If it is part of the international conference, I think it deserves studying deeply, and I think it is very important for Palestinians to deal with matters positively because, as I told you, we are not going to lose anything. [end recording]

He stresses that the non-representation of East Jerusalem residents, which was agreed on between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Foreign Minister David Levi, is unacceptable to the Palestinians. He says that in the upcoming days, he will consult with his associates in the East Jerusalem leadership. He will travel abroad and hold meetings there only if they serve to promote the peace process and show concrete results.

Official Views Position on Palestinian Delegation

TA1204175391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, by Eli Nisan on 12 April at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; recording broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ben-Aharon] ...the conclusion of the other side regarding the whole concept, whether about this regional conference as an opening event, or whether about the role the participants will play both in this event and during the negotiations. So this is not important. We suggested various models. Therefore, it would not be accurate—and would not reflect reality—to regard any part of the Israeli Government's attitude toward the issue of the Palestinian delegation as though it were a fixed position.

[Nisan] In that case, Mr. Ben-Aharon, what is accurate?

[Ben-Aharon] That we desire, as I told you before, to move forward on both tracks. The issue of what form the representation of the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will take is still being discussed between Israel and the Arab parties, through the mediation of the United States.

[Nisan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, one of the possibilities that was mentioned was that this Palestinian delegation be a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. Has Jordan's agreement on this issue been received?

[Ben-Aharon] We are pleased with the fact that Jordan has expressed the desire to rejoin the peace process. After all, most of the population of Jordan is Palestinian. Many Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip have relatives and family on both sides of the Jordan River. It would be impossible to achieve a realistic solution to the problem with Jordan completely cut off from the process. There must be negotiations both with the Jordanian Government and with the Arabs who live here with us in these territories. If that can be integrated with Israel sitting down with both parties in some manner or other, we think that it simply would be in the best interests for our purpose. It would work for our benefit, for the benefit of the Arab residents, and even for the benefit of Jordan.

[Nisan] And have there been any signals on this matter from the Jordanian side?

[Ben-Aharon] I can refer you to statements issued by the Jordanian Government according to which it is prepared to rejoin the process. Although the Jordanian Government has once again pointed at the PLO and said that the PLO's agreement is required and so forth, we want things to be clear and we are not hiding our position: The PLO will not be part of this process and will not be involved, either directly or indirectly. I very much hope that the Arab leaders and spokesmen, and the elected officials here among the Palestinian Arabs, understand that if they kowtow to the orders of the PLO they will be subjecting themselves to a continued state of suffering and political paralysis.

[Nisan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, will not the participation of many Arab countries in a regional conference, as suggested by Israel, overemphasize the Palestinian problem, and make Arab states adopt a more extreme position?

[Ben-Aharon] We hope that there will be an understanding on the side of the Arab governments that we wholeheartedly and sincerely want to try to resolve all the problems in a parallel fashion. That is why we suggested the two-track approach. If the Arab states say that we must resolve the Palestinian problem first, that will be a sign that they do not want to resolve any problems and that they are merely using the Palestinian issue to sabotage the peace process and to harm the future and security of the State of Israel. The key is in their hands.

AFP Reports PLO Demonstration in Gaza Strip

NC1504084991 Paris AFP in English 0806 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Jerusalem, April 15 (AFP)—A grenade was lobbed at an Israeli patrol early Monday in the occupied Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp, but the device did not explode, military sources said.

The matter was being investigated, they said.

More than 200 masked Palestinians armed with guns, axes and knives and brandishing the outlawed Palestinian flag demonstrated Sunday night in the refugee camp to mark the third anniversary of a PLO leader's assasination, Arab sources said.

The demonstrators were commemorating the killing by an Israeli commando unit in Tunis in 1988 of Khalil al-Wazir, known as Abu Jihad, the number two of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Elsewhere, the army slapped a curfew on Monday on the town and the refugee camp of Khan Yunis as well as the Jabalia camp to "avert clashes during prayers for the feast of Al-Fitr" marking the end of the Moslem fasting month of Ramadan, military sources said.

In the West Bank, the army lifted a curfew from the towns of Jenin, Hebron and other villages for the feast.

Hundreds of Palestinians demonstrated waving Palestinian flags in Al Bireh and Ramallah on the West Bank following the traditional visit to cemeteries on the first day of the feast but Israeli soldiers dispersed the marchers with tear gas, Palestinian sources said.

Pipe Bomb Explodes at Jaffa Gate; No Casualties

TA1204101691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] A pipe bomb exploded several minutes ago at the Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem. There were no injuries and no damage. Two suspects were seen fleeing the scene. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT and Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT and 1100 GMT on 12 April carry similar reports with the exception that they report the explosion occurred at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City, rather than at the Jaffa Gate.]

IDF Patrol Fired on From Jordan, Returns Fire

TA1504201691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Light arms were fired tonight from Jordan at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in the area of Kibbutz Neve Ur. None of the soldiers were hurt. The patrol returned fire. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht points out that an IDF patrol was also fired at before dawn today and nobody was hurt.

'Terrorist' Killed

TA1604064891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] A terrorist was killed near Kibbutz Neve Ur in the Bet She'an Valley last night. He had crossed the border from Jordan. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, Staff Sergeant Doron Brauner from Kibbutz Kissufim in the Negev, sustained critical injuries in that incident.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the terrorist fired twice from Jordanian territory at an IDF patrol that was moving along the border fence last night. The soldiers on the patrol returned fire. Several hours later, the terrorist cut the wire fence and penetrated Israel. He was spotted immediately in a palm grove approximately 100 meters from the border. In the course of the chase, the terrorist fired his Kalashnikov, wounding the IDF soldier in the neck. The soldier was given immediate medical treatment by an Army physician and an emergency medical unit and was taken to Rambam Hospital in Haifa by helicopter. An IDF unit pursued the terrorist and killed him by firing at short range.

The terrorist is a 21-year-old Jordanian resident. A copy of the Koran and a leaflet attesting to his membership in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] were found among his possessions.

Doron Brauner, the wounded soldier, was operated on early this morning at Rambam Hospital. He is described as in very grave condition. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that he sustained injuries in the upper part of his body. The operation lasted several hours and the patient is now in the intensive care unit. It has been reported from the hospital that the doctors are constantly at his bedside.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that according to IDF sources, Jordan appears to be having difficulties preventing terrorist activities against Israel from its territory. They pointed out that the number of attempts to infiltrate from Jordan increased last year. They again told our correspondent that Jordan is responsible for the terrorist infiltrations and Israel expects it to do everything it can to thwart such attempts.

Arab Youth Shot After Throwing Stones at Bus

TA1504091291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] An Arab youth, who threw stones at an Egged bus driving from the settlement of Psagot to Jerusalem, was shot dead in the township of al-Birah, north of Jerusalem. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two soldiers, serving as security guards on the bus, and one of the passengers fired at the man and killed him.

Without connection to this incident, the dead man's brother was run over by a car and killed in al-Birah one hour later.

Driver Killed While Attempting To Hit Soldier

TA1404132891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was deliberately hit by an Arab car in Hebron today. The soldier was slightly injured. The driver reversed and attempted to hit the injured soldier once more, but then another soldier shot the driver and killed him. The injured soldier was taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital. The IDF soldiers were patrolling the road from Hebron to Beersheba. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF imposed a curfew on Hebron.

Data on Intidafah Incidents, Casualties Reported

TA1504162191

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 15 April in a page 1 ITIM report says: "The police spokesman last night released statistics of Israeli casualties in intifada-related incidents in Jerusalem and within the Green Line between January 1, 1988 and November 31, 1990.

"Jerusalem: Security forces personnel casualties: one killed (stabbed to death), 20 wounded (12 from stabbings, two from molotov cocktails, two from a hand grenade and four from sabotage).

"Civilian casualties: 29 killed (10 stabbed to death, two shot, 16 from sabotage and one from an explosive device), 74 wounded (18 stabbed, 29 from sabotage, 11 from molotov cocktails and 16 from explosive devices)."

In a page 10 report of the same edition of the paper, David Rudge reports that police discovered a hoard of "intifada-style" weapons when they raided a West Bank village yesterday after an abortive arson attack inside the Green Line.

"The hoard included home-made arms, explosives, petrol bombs, 'Ninja' weapons and several PLO flags."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 15 April in a page 1 report by Mikhal Sela' says that "residents of the village of Artas near Solomon's Pools recently received announcements from the military government that private lands in the village would be confiscated to expand the settlement of Efrat."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 15 April in a page A8 report by Ben Kaspit says that "two 17-year-olds who attacked an Arab resident of the territories, chased after him, beat him, and stabbed him three times in the back with a penknife were convicted last week." Each was fined 250 shekels.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 15 April reports that "Police Chief Inspector 'Abadallah Yunis, a resident of Rafah, was murdered in the town at noon. Our correspondent reports that Chief Inspector Yunis came to visit relatives in the Shabura neighborhood on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr when a masked man broke into the room and shot him at close range. Gaza police started a manhunt for the murderer."

12-13 April Events in Territories Updated

TA1404092291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Apr 91 p A3

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Yizhar Be'er, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Yesterday, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was wounded in the hand after Riyad Mahmud Abu-Qarush, 38, from Rafah, attacked an IDF patrol in Rafah. The assailant approached the soldier, drew out a knife, and stabbed him in the hand. Another patrolman opened fire at the attacker, wounding him. He was evacuated in moderate condition to Gaza's al- Shifa' Hospital, and later to Tel Hashomer Hospital. [passage omitted]

According to Palestinian sources, clashes between residents and the Army occurred in the Gaza Strip during the weekend. The sources said that three residents were wounded in Gaza and one in Khan Yunus. [passage omitted]

In the Nabulus District village of (Qasaras), shepherds yesterday discovered the body of a local resident, 30-year-old 'Abd al-'Awdah, who was beaten to death with a sharp object. The Bethlehem District village of Nahallin was declared a closed military area. [passage omitted] Yesterday morning a curfew was enforced on the Nabulus District village of Bayta, where helicopter chases after wanted men were conducted. Civil Administration personnel carried out a tax collection operation. [passage omitted]

Over the weekend, the security forces sealed the Dayr Ballut home of Dr. Ribhi Rashid, a 32-year-old physician, who has been held in detention for the past year for security offenses.

A cave with a stash of weapons was discovered in the vicinity of Jabal al-Mukabar by a Border Police patrol on Saturday. Among the objects in the cave were two molotov cocktails ready for use, 10 ninja suits, contact glue, paint spray, leaflets, incendiary pamphlets and cassettes, and a loudspeaker. [passage omitted]

West Bank Curfews Lifted To Mark Muslim Holiday

TA1504053291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] All the curfews in Judaea and Samaria were lifted this morning on the occasion of the 'Id al-Fitr holiday.

the end of the traditional fast. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Army also lifted the curfew in Hebron, where an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was deliberately run over by a car yesterday.

In the Gaza Strip, however, the IDF this morning clamped preventive curfews on a number of locations, including the Jabalyah refugee camp, the township of Khan Yunus and its adjoining refugee camp, and another small village.

Reportage on Shamir Visit to London

WA1504193791

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to London to participate in the opening ceremony of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, including reports on his talks with Romanian President Ion Iliescu and CSFR President Vaclav Havel, please see the International Affairs section of the 15 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Hostages To Be Released After 'Id al-Fitr

NC1604081391 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 15 Apr 91 p 7

[Text] The biggest obstacle to the success of the efforts and endeavors to find a solution to the issue of foreign hostages detained in Lebanon has been the accusation by some of the abductors that members of their families had been killed by a foreign country's intelligence service.

Despite the stalled efforts, an informed source in Beirut continues to stress that the issue of the hostages has been settled. He added that this issue will be closed in practice after the 'Id al-Fitr holidays, with the release of all hostages during the month of April. The source ruled out any surprises that would prevent the release of these hostages.

Reportage on Prime Minister's Visit to Syria

Discusses Issues Before Departure

NC1304180391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami left for Damascus today for consultations with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials on Lebanese and regional developments and the steps the national accord government is taking to implement the al-Ta'if accord.

Prime Minister Karami met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Speaker Husayn al-Husayni before leaving for Damascus. After the meetings, the prime minister said:

[Begin recording] [Karami] We visited his excellency the president of the Republic and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies for consultations, because I am leaving for Damascus now to meet with President al-Asad. We discussed all aspects of the issues that would be raised in Damascus. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Prime Minister: Is there anything new in the disbandment of the militias and the state's absorption of them?

[Karami] Matters are proceeding positively. All that you wish and hope for will be implemented, God willing, according to the timetable set out in the government program. [end recording]

Returns, Briefs Al-Hirawi

NC1404124191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami returned to Beirut from Damascus shortly before noon today and immediately went to the temporary presidential palace where he met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi to brief him on the results of his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Karami spoke to the press:

[Begin recording] [Karami] We went to Damascus and discussed all current issues. As usual, President al-Asad and the Syrian leadership as a whole were responsive and offered their full support to achieve salvation.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Prime Minister: There is talk about a Lebanese-Syrian summit in which you might participate. What can you tell us?

[Karami] Nothing would prevent such a summit when the need arises. We regard ourselves and the Syrian brothers as one. There isn't even a protocol concerning this matter. When the need arises, they are always ready, and we are also ready. [end recording]

Karami, Syrian Minister View Al-Ta'if Accord

NC1504142691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] In an interview with AL-SAFIR, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has stated that everyone recognizes that the Lebanese issue should be considered separately from the Middle East crisis.

Karami said: If we refer to statements by the Americans, we see that they support the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement to the letter and that work for the implementation of this agreement as well as Resolution 425 is not linked to the Middle East crisis.

Karami added: What I heard from Syrian officials does not contradict this position, and I have no sense that there has been any change or that there is any new influence. He expressed confidence that the Lebanese legitimate authority will proceed with this program and said that its top priorities now are the dissolution of the militias and the appointment of deputies without delay.

Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has confirmed this view, and said that there is an international consensus on the need to implement all clauses of the al-Ta'if agreement. He said that there was no need for further discussion of this subject, except for the part that relates to the Israeli occupation.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, Salman said he preferred not to go into detail on the implementation of the measures or the decisions made by the Lebanese authority. However, he added: We are fully confident that this authority is capable of shouldering responsibility for following up on the implementation of any decisions it makes and any programs it draws up.

Salman added: Resolution 425, which relates to Lebanon, is not the only resolution Israel has rejected. We believe that this resolution is one of many resolutions Israel has rejected through its actions and in its dealings with both the international organization and the Arabs. Therefore, we believe that if a peace conference to

resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict takes place, the Lebanese issue must be discussed and Lebanon must participate in the conference after agreement is reached on the substance of its discussions.

Karami on Dissolution of Armed Palestinians

NC1404090891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] In a press interview, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami emphasized that the Lebanese authorities do not intend to resort to the use of force against the Palestinians to compel them to dissolve their armed organizations. He expressed the government's readiness to negotiate with the Palestinians on their rights as long as our independence is not threatened.

Karami said that all matters related to the handing over of weapons and to the militiamen joining the state are proceeding in a positive manner. The prime minister attacked France, accusing it of infringing on Lebanon's sovereignty and dignity by its handling of the General 'Awn situation. He said that France must understand that Lebanon is an independent country that is no longer subject to French mandate.

Defense Ministry Statement on Car Explosion

NC3003082691 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Statement by the Defense Ministry's Information Department—date not given]

[Text] A booby-trapped Jeep exploded in Antilyas at 0900 yesterday near the area that was the scene of the explosion aimed against the motorcade of Defense Minister Michel al-Murr last Wednesday [20 March]. The blast left four people dead, including a soldier and a policeman, and 20 others wounded who were transported to the hospitals in the area.

Immediately after the explosion, an Army force surrounded the area and security and judiciary teams initiated preliminary investigations to unravel the circumstances of the incident. This incident is part of the attempts to undermine the historic decisions made by the legitimate authorities in their efforts to consolidate the state's authority and end the state of war and its effects.

The defense minister expressed his extreme regret and denunciation of the fall of innocent victims who always pay the price of such heinous crimes. He wished the wounded a speedy recovery. Minister al-Murr said that the explosion is a link in the chain of acts whose aim is to sabotage the process of peace and accord.

Ibrahim Briefs Officials on 'Arafat Talks

NC1604064691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization, returned to Beirut last night following a visit of several days to Tunisia and other Arab Maghreb countries during which he met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

He and the Palestinian leader discussed recent developments, particularly those related to the PLO stand on the issue of the dissolution of the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and the handing over of their weapons to the authority. They also discussed the issue of organizing Lebanese-Palestinian relations. Ibrahim has embarked on a series of contacts with officials and leaders to brief them on the outcome of his talks with 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders.

Minister Dib on Al-Ta'if; Militia Disbandment

NC1504102491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Minister Roger Dib has emphasized that the current government lacks balance at both national and political levels and that the Lebanese Forces' stand on this government will not change.

In an interview with the L'ORIENT-LE JOUR newspaper, he said: We have a genuine desire to implement the al-Ta'if accord, but not at any cost.

Regarding the appointment of deputies, Dib said that it is an issue that deals with Lebanon's sovereignty. He said: We believe that any state or people who do not elect their deputies are not sovereign.

He added: On the other hand, there is the issue of balance between Christians and Muslims which is at the core of our constitutional system and the al-Ta'if accord. What concerns us is a balance in terms of sovereignty and balance. Our position is this: We agree that the militias must be disbanded. A timetable must be laid to settle all issues, especially the absorption of military personnel in the state's institutions.

He asked: If we reach a status of calm that allows the state to establish its authority on about 70 per cent of the territory, why not hold direct elections? Why should the people's rights be violated and why does this (?ambiguity) exist at the constitutional level?

Al-Bizri Discusses Resolution 425, Resistance

NC1404145691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Minister Nazih al-Bizri has said that if Resolution 425 is not implemented by the end of September, we will be compelled to initiate tough resistance involving all parties. He affirmed that this resistance will not only be

popular but it will also be official. The major powers realize this fact, Minister al-Bizri added.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-NIDA' today, Minister al-Bizri said that the state is compelled and committed to implementing the al-Ta'if accord, dissolving the militias, collecting the weapons, and consolidating the legitimate authority throughout Lebanon. Likewise, the state is also compelled and committed to implementing Resolution 425, Minister al-Bizri added.

Al-Bizri said that Jazzin is extremely important for the deployment of the Lebanese army because it links all areas. He added: We want to ride out the crisis as soon as possible because Israel always looks for reasons to attack Lebanon. It is an expansionist and aggressive state and will attempt more attacks. Minister al-Bizri expressed the hope that ties with the Palestinians will be strengthened in a way that will please them and enable the Lebanese to deal with the Palestinian issue positively.

Al-Bizri Says Palestinian Weapons To Be Banned

NC1504101591 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Minister of State Nazih al-Bizri has said that the Palestinian issue will be dealt with peacefully and that there will be no fighting. He added that Palestinian weapons will be banned just like Lebanese weapons and that the Palestinian weapons should exist inside Palestine.

Junblatt Criticizes State's 'Lack of Commitment'

NC1404200991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Speech by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt at a memorial service for struggler Abu-Nayif Ghuraybah in the mountain on 14 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Today as we close the chapter on war to begin a chapter on peace, we say frankly: We have conditions. The first condition is that all the elements of the Progessive Socialist Party [PSP] popular army, the [mountain] civil administration, the security police, and all those who are faithful and committed and who have struggled for the country be incorporated into the state's organs, particularly the army.

We have entered into negotiations with the government but as of this very moment have found nothing but a lack of commitment. We have submitted objective and sensible figures that could meet the existing needs and allow the PSP and the national forces to be well-represented in the government services, but have received no response.

Quite recently, they [who speak for the government] said to us: Wait until after 'Id al-Fitr [feast marking end of the fasting month of Ramadan]. May they, and we, enjoy the holidays. But let us tell them: After the holidays, if no clear, practical, and serious commitment is made to enroll in government service the fighting, loyal, and nationalist citizens who share the legacy, pride, and patience of [deceased struggler] Abu-Nayif, we may postpone, or actually suspend, the issue of the deployment of the state's internal security and army in the remaining parts of the mountain area. These things go together: enrollment, deployment, and incorporation.

Naturally, at a later stage we will request our fundamental share of budget allocations for the development of the mountain and for reconstructing what the tyrants demolished in previous military adventures. We have to demand a share of the mountain in development. We also must caution that the funds that come, however infrequently ... [Junblatt changes thought] We thank King Fahd for his donation to Lebanon, but we tell him that unfortunately the money he is sending now is being wasted on useless expenditures.

We want to rebuild the mountain, for it is only through reconstruction that the march of peace can be completed and the displaced people—all of the displaced people, from al-Nab'ah to al-Karantina to al-Damur—can return to their homes. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Condemns Government, Urges Resistance

NC1204211091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Hizballah has launched a violent campaign against the Lebanese regime.

Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said: The new regime is taking us back several centuries and is preparing new tribulations. He added: We are confident the United States envisaged these consequences when it imposed this regime. It wants the Lebanese to suffer more trials and tribulations/

He called for peaceful political opposition to the existing Lebanese regime. He said: The nonresisting state and regime are not our system. He added that every statement that adversely affects the resistance and the resistance fighters is a statement by an agent. He said: We have decided to defend our dignity against the Zionists and we do not want to hear Zionist words and apologies for them.

Al-Tufayli said that everyone must take a stand and support the resistance and expressed surprise at the questions being raised about the fate of the resistance and the weapons of resistance in light of the talk about the disbandment of the militias. He said: We want the Lebanese Army to be at the forefront of the resistance fighters. We want its rifles to fire the first shots.

Hizballah stressed that it accepts only what the Lebanese people accept. He said: Whoever wants to propose a plan to the party must submit it to a plebiscite in Lebanon. If a majority of Lebanese accept it, then he has the right to submit it for implementation. But if the majority rejects it, then it will never be an acceptable plan.

Shaykh al-Tufayli was speaking during a Hizballah parade in the Southern Suburb which took place amid strict security measures. Obersvers noted that party members taking part wore Hizballah's military uniform.

'Islamic Resistance' Claims Attack on SLA Patrol

NC1504111691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol was targeted by an explosive charge which armed men hurled on the Buslayya Road this morning. What is called Islamic resistance claimed responsibility for the attack and said the blast injured all patrol members.

Fadlallah Says U.S. Protecting Iraqi Regime

NC3003074991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Ayatollah Seyyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has held the U.S. forces responsible for protecting the Iraqi regime. He noted that Washington is playing a dual game under the slogan of noninterference in Iraq's internal affairs. He said Western states are going too far with Saddam in oppressing the Muslim people in Iraq. He said the Iraqis are living under the most difficult conditions and that Iraq is experiencing a barbarian war of annihilation.

Seyyed Fadlallah condemned Saddam's aggression against religious figures and the world's silence over his crimes. He said that the uprising in southern Iraq is a popular, Islamic one that interacts with the other uprising of both Kurds and nationalists in the north.

Fadlallah Criticizes Arab Policy for Peace

NC1204153891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stressed that Jerusalem Day is the day of Islam and the day of rejection, which we must carry to the coming generations. He called on Muslims to achieve greater unity, because unity gives strength and heralds the start of the liberation of Palestine.

In his Friday sermon at the Imam al-Raida Mosque, his eminence said that the policy being adopted in the Arab world today is one which follows the U.S. plans and has no relation to the kind of peace that can preserve the people's freedoms. It is a policy that means submission to the United States and Israel. 'Allamah Fadlallah disclosed that what is being proposed today, as indicated by published reports on Baker's agreement with Israel, means that there will be no Palestinian state, no Jewish withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, and no negotiations with the PLO.

Ayatollah Fadlallah noted that Baker is proposing a regional conference to be attended by the Arab countries. The Palestinians, he added, will not be permitted to take part in this conference, which will examine Israel's relations with neighboring countries. He pointed out that the Palestinian question would not be raised at the talks between the Arab countries and Israel. His eminence noted that most leaders of Arab countries are on the payroll of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, and that some of these countries now view the question of the struggle with the Zionist enemy as a dispute and address it from a defensive rather than offensive position.

He concluded by saying: They want to deprive us of the power we now hold in our hands. They want the intifadah to end. They want the resistance to stop in the name of maintaining order in Lebanon, so that Israel can feel comfortable with us and we can feel comfortable with them. They say: Drop the resistance so that Israel will see that the Lebanese state is in control of all Lebanese territory. By this they mean the wolf-and-lamb kind of resistance. Even after all these years, we must continue to think about driving the Jews out of the region, because there is no room for coexistence between racist Judaism and Islam.

Fadlallah Sees U.S. 'Plot' To Control Region

NC1604080091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the United States is responsible for Lebanon's remaining problems. He added that the Palestinian problem is also the result of global arrogance.

In his 'Id al-Fitr sermon today, his eminence said that the Gulf war, undertaken in the name of the liberation of Kuwait, was really a war over oil. He added that the United States gave the Iraqi regime the green light to kill its people and destroy their homes. He went on to say: The United States is working to contain us in the name of establishing a new regional or international order. Regarding Palestine, Bush talked about land for peace but said nothing about the Palestinian people's rights, while the Arabs are talking about a regional security order. He said that the United States is implementing a plot to divide the region so as to control it. He added: When we talk about the United States or any other Western country, we do not mean the peoples of those governments with which we have differences. We are against the U.S. Administration and the decisionmaking circles that enslave peoples; we are against governments that act unjustly. As Muslims, we feel no sense of inferority toward anyone. Islam moves us to be open to others, but this must be from a position of strength and alertness. People must use their brains to understand what is going around them.

On the internal situation, he said: Political lies and deceit do not give a a country a future. Nor can a future be secured by those who have been groomed by intelligence services and global arrogance. We call on the Lebanese people to find the bases for a common denominator among their views.

Three Militias Release Numbers of Forces

NC1304114091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Beirut, 13 Apr (MENA)—The Lebanese newspapers say today that the number of the Lebanese military and civilian militia members that the Lebanese Forces, the Amal Movement, and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] want to assimilate into the Lebanese state's establishments totals more than 36,000 people.

The newspapers note that the Lebanese Forces (Christian militia) have submitted a list of 18,500 members, the Amal Movement 10,200 members, and the PSP 8,500 members. The government has officially proposed to assimilate 16,000 members in the state's institutions, equally divided between Muslims and Christians.

On another level, the Lebanese newspapers expect a Lebanese-Syrian summit will be held shortly to discuss the early application of the al-Ta'if accord and to find out about the outcome of the Syrian efforts to bring about the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 on southern Lebanon.

Israeli Warplanes Fly Over Palestinian Camps

Draw Antiaircraft Fire

NC1604060991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the Palestinian camps in the south last night. They dropped flares over the Sidon and Tyre camps, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Overflights Continue

NC1604105491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been flying over the South since the morning, drawing antiaircraft fire.

TISHRIN on Baker Tour, Peace Conference

JN1604072491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Efforts To Achieve True Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says: News agencies have reported that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will make a new tour of the region to advance the peace process in a persistent endeavor to surmount the difficulties standing in the way of a peaceful settlement. The Middle East is a hotbed of tension. Moreover, international resolutions have been waiting for implementation for scores of years, thanks to Israel's intransigence and determination to pursue expansionist and aggressive schemes.

TISHRIN adds: It goes without saying that peace has its basic components. Peace in our region has to be just and comprehensive so that it can succeed and be fair. Over the past years, Syria has been struggling and making immense sacrifices to defend the Palestine question. This is because pan-Arab security is indivisible. Likewise, what happends to Palestine affects Syria. Consequently, there is no room for separate deals designed to compartmentalize the conflict and fragment the substance.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Syria and the Arab states agreed to attend a Middle East peace conference in which the United Nations would play a significant and comprehensive role. Implementation of international resolutions is required. How else can a serious conference be held in the absence of the United Nations, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the parties concerned? An international presence is a guarantee that the conference deliberations will proceed seriously. Likewise, this will also help obtain a commitment from Israel that it will comply with international resolutions. A halt to settlement activities is inevitable if true peace in the region is to be attained.

Political, Military Leaders Address Troops

JN1604085691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] On instructions from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, comrade members of the political and military commands visited our combat ground, air, and naval units on the occasion of the 'Id al-Fitr. They met with the combatants at their barracks and other posts during rallies held to mark the occasion. Speaking at these rallies, the comrades relayed to the combatants the congratulations of his excellency the president and his best wishes to the Syrian Arab combatants deployed everywhere on the Arab land for a successful performance and endeavor so that our masses' objectives of victory and liberation may be realized.

In their speeches, the comrades also reviewed the current political situation in the region. They declared that Syria under al-Asad, with its sincere pan-Arab position, is proving that it is an example to be emulated and that it is also a leader in steadfastness and confrontation. They stressed that Syria is showing that its struggle is based on constant political principles that seek to serve the Arab nation's higher interests and pan-Arab goals of unity, freedom, and socialism.

The comrades stated that it has always been Syria's destiny to struggle, to show determination, and to triumph. They added: Syria has repeatedly shown, in word and deed, that Arab solidarity is a manifestation of a strategic Arab will enlightened by rationality. Hence, Syria has made concerted efforts to achieve, safeguard, and enhance this solidarity so that it can serve as a basic weapon in the battles of confrontation waged by the Arab nation.

The comrades reviewed the crises plaguing our Arab nation. They verified that the Palestine question will remain the central and pivotal issue in our struggle against the Zionist enemy. They also referred to the Syrian efforts in Lebanon to prevent the Zionist partition scheme from achieving its objectives, to allow Lebanon's wounds to heal, and to enable Lebanon to mobilize efforts to achieve national accord.

The comrades also spoke of the destructive Gulf crisis created by the Iraqi regime through its invasion of Kuwait, which prompted foreign troops to come to the region. They pointed out that Syria, thanks to its pan-Arab sentiments, was able to draw the proper and sound conclusions from the beginning. They added: Hence, it warned and cautioned Saddam and attempted to convince him to withdraw from Kuwait.

The comrades told our combatants that our valiant armed forces will remain a support for the Arabs and a defender of their rights.

On the occasion, the military zone and site commanders visited the martyrs' cemeteries, laid wreaths at the monument to the unknown soldier, and read the al-Fatihah [opening chapter in the Koran] to invoke God to have mercy on the martyrs' souls.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Delivers 'Id Al-Fitr Speech

LD1504184191 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Kabul, 15 April, BAKHTAR—Attention: The following will be published in newspapers after being broadcast by television.

Radio and television speech by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Religious compatriots, sisters and brothers. The sacred months of Ramadan which is the month of God's test against hardship and the month of purification of spirit for the Muslims has ended. Our religious people celebrate the auspicious days of 'Id.

On behalf of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and myself, on the auspicious days of 'Id al-Fitr I congratulate all dear compatriots, the brave personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, the hero defenders of the cities and highways of the country, the Muslim brothers of the neighboring countries, and all the world Muslims, and I wish good health and happiness to them from Almighty God. [passage omitted]

The State of the Republic of Afghanistan, in continuation of its peaceful policy of the reconciliation and out of respect for the holy month of Ramadan, has for its part declared the nationwide cease-fire so that our people can perform their religious rites and prayers in peace, free from the suffering and pains of war. Unfortunately, contrary to the goodwill and aspirations of the people and State of Afghanistan, this time too, a number of the opposition [movements] have violated the cease-fire declared by us in various parts of the country. During this sacred month of Ramadan, the extremists, together with Pakistan's militarists, have carried out an extensive aggression and offensive against the city of Khowst.

You are aware, that 14 April coincides with the third anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Accords. These accords, which were signed as a result of the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, could have created a firm foundation for a comprehensive political and peaceful solution for the issues of Afghanistan. Based on these accords, all type of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan should have been ended. Despite the fact that the Soviet forces returned completely and the Republic of Afghanistan acted sincerely toward its all commitments, unfortunately, during this period not only were all the spirit and provisions of those accords systematically breached by Pakistan, but recently the militarists and adventurist circles of that country have resorted to a harsh aggression on Khowst. Pakistani Regular Army units, militias, commandos, artillery, rocket, and tank forces took a direct and extensive part in this armed aggression and invasion. As a result of this flagrant attack by Pakistani aggressors, hundreds of our compatriots in Khowst were martyred or injured. The aggressors, contrary to all Islamic, humanitarian, and moral standards, transformed the 'Id days to days of mourning and distress for thousands of Afghan families. By this means, I want to assure the families of those of our compatriots who are in captivity in Pakistan that the efforts to release the aforementioned prisoners are at the center of attention of the Republic of Afghanistan. We will not spare any steps in this direction.

In this regard, the state has repeatedly contacted various UN establishments and humanitarian nongovernmental organizations, asking them to take the necessary measures to prevent maltreatment and actions that contradict the norms of prisoners' human rights. Our compatriots and world public opinion will judge to what extent the extremists and their patrons are honest about their allegedly humanitarian claims.

Dear compatriots, ensuring reconciliation, fraternity, brotherhood, cooperation, and equality among Muslims is what the sacred month of Ramadan and celebrations of 'Id are all about. It is a pleasure that an increasing number of rational personalities and forces approve this theory that no type of efforts to fall [as received] the cities, except their apparent results, will be able to resolve the issue of Afghanistan and bring about peace, which is needed by our compatriots as much as air and water. Naturally, an adventuristic approach to the fate of the homeland and destruction of the life and tranquillity of thousands of Afghan families to satisfy the interest of the foreigners and a handful of selfish and ambitious elements attached to them is against the instructions of the religious principles of the Prophet and national and international values. In these sacred days, once again following the instructions of God and the acceptable traditions and customs of Afghanistan's people, we address the opposition of the Republic of Afghanistan, wherever they are. The holy Koran is God's law for us and invites the Muslims to remove resentment and differences. Islamic and Afghani traditions, which are our inheritance from our patriotic fathers and forefathers, invite Muslims and Afghans for negotiation, unity, and solidarity. The national interest and heritage of Afghanistan, whose protection is our highest honor and duty, ask all our compatiots to defend Afghanistan's national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

While there remains a practical possibility to end war, ensure peace, and remove differences in Afghanistan, it is not suitable for patriotic, religious Afghans, the supporters of the unity, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Afghanistan, to remain silent and indifferent. We should embrace each other and hold each other's hands and ensure peace, fraternity, brotherhood, and unity in Afghanistan, our common home, thereby cutting short the hands of foreigners and interfering forces.

The political forces and Afghanistan's personalities in and out of the country certainly will hear this Islamic and

Afghan call and will reply to it positively. The continuation of the present tense situation, which is the result of the aggressive actions by Pakistan's adventurist circles and the extremists backed by them, cannot be approved by our other neighboring countries and does not lack certain concern for them, too. We again appeal to and invite the Islamic Republic of Iran to use its sincere efforts to prevent continued aggression and inteference by Pakistan's militarists, which increase bloodshed in our country and intensify tension in our region. Undoubtedly, the acheivement of such an aim will consolidate stability in the Republic of Afghanistan and in the region and will be in the interest of the people of both countries.

We attach great importance to the good efforts of the Republic of Turkey, as one of the prestigious countries of the region, toward ending the present abnormal situation in Afghanistan. We are confident that that friendly country will not spare such assistance to our people.

We request from all the Islamic and Arab countries to use their moral and political influence to end aggression against our country, and to help our people achieve national understanding and peace. Naturally, such an approach will be admired by Almighty God, may He be glorified, who has always instructed Muslims in peace and fraternity.

Dear compatriots, I want to assure you that the State of the Republic of Afghanistan, despite all the monkey wrenches put in the works by the enemies of peace, who want to prevent the realization of the national reconciliation policy by expanding the dimensions of war and interference, will continue its permanent and tireless efforts to achieve the national and nationwide understanding and to implement fully the national reconciliation policy in loyalty to the high national interests and aspirations of the millions of compatriots thirsty for peace. Fortunately, our intentions are fully understood by the sound national forces of our country and realistic countries, organizations, and circles. The diplomatic developments over the last few weeks regarding the issues of Afghanistan and around it manifests this matter.

It is worth mentioning that, despite the aggressive activities by the warmongering circles of Pakistan, recently voices are being heard by a number of official authorities and circles of that country concerning a belief in a political and peaceful solution of the conflicts. We welcome any plans or proposals based on sound judgment, regardless of the time that they are put forward, and believe that if such plans are sincere they should be implemented along with practical steps to end interference and prevent the expansion and continuation of bloodshed among Afghans and to restrain the selfish and ambitious tendencies of the adventurist circles and elements. The State of the Republic of Afghanistan has always been ready to embark on talks and negotiation with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on ways and means to normalize relations between our country and that country.

Esteemed compatriots, let us extend the hands of fraternity and brotherhood toward each other by learning from the Islamic education on the philosophy of the sacred month of Ramadan and 'Id al-Fitr, allowing each one of us to fulfil our national and Islamic duty toward ensuring peace, which is the wish of Afghanistan's people.

Using this opportunity, I congratulate all my compatriots, the refugees sisters and brothers who live homeless, to the Afghans living in other countries, and the armed opposition commanders who favor ending the war and ensuring peace in the country on the sacred ways of 'Id al-Fitr. God willing, the blessing of the sacred month of Ramadan and virtue of the auspicious days of 'Id will become the beginning of a period of peace, stability, and tranquillity in the country. Success comes from God.

14 Regime Soldiers Killed in Factional Fighting

BK1504154191 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that 14 Kabul regime soldiers were killed and several others injured during an intense shoot-out between rival factions of the Kabul regime at Meymaneh, headquarters of northwestern province of Faryab. The injured included the governor of Faryab Province, (Hashem Tarekar), and two high-ranking officers. The governor's house was also hit. The reports say the local militia and Khad's armed group fought against each other and used tanks and heavy weapons during the daylong fighting.

India

Reportage on Hungarian President's Visit

Goncz Speaks to Press

LD1104202691 Budapest MTI in English 1927 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 11 (MTI)—On the second day of his visit to India, President of the Republic of Hungary Arpad Goncz laid a wreath at Mahatma Gandhi's commemorative plaque.

Later, he paid a visit to the New Delhi University, where he received an honorary doctorate in recognition of his literary activities, with special regard to his merits in translating Indian works into Hungarian.

President Goncz met Mohammed A. Rahman, an elderly politician, who at the time of the 1956 revolution in Hungary was ambassador of India to Hungary and intervened on Arpad Goncz's behalf once the revolution was crushed, helping him to escape a most heavy sentence.

The Hungarian president recalled the positive role of Indian diplomacy, namely that of M.A. Rahman in attempts at mediating between the then Moscow leadership and Hungarian revolutionary circles.

The Hungarian president presented M.A. Rahman with the order of the standard of laurels of the Republic of Hungary.

Acting Prime Minister of India Chandra Shekhar gave a gala dinner in honour of the Hungarian president.

After the dinner, President Goncz held an international press briefing, informing journalists about Hungary's economy, its plans and possibilities of joining the European Communities and its relations with the Soviet Union.

The president spoke about the difficulties the Hungarian economy is facing in the course of privatization and liberalization.

In response to a question, he said that Hungary did not wish to join NATO's military organization.

Speaking about Mikhail Gorbachev's role in promoting East European changes, Goncz stressed that 'a changed Soviet Union can be as good a friend as before.'

Speaking passionately, President Goncz assured a Yugoslavian journalist that Hungary deeply regretted the arms deal with Croatia.

'Hungary's basic interest is that Yugoslavia remain a unified, stable country, even if it becomes a loose federation of member states,' he said, adding that he did not wish to interfere with another country's affairs.

Arpad Goncz gave a lecture at the annual ceremonial meeting of the Association of Indian Diplomats. He also met leading Indian intellectuals and took part at the opening of an exhibition of painter Erzsebet Brunner, who has been living in India for more than half a century. The exhibition was organized in the Hungarian centre of information and culture in New Delhi.

Calcutta, Madras Consulates To Open

BK1104152091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Hungary will soon open its consulates in Calcutta and Madras. This was stated by the visiting Hungarian president, Mr. Arpad Goncz, in New Delhi today. He said that the Government of India has given its approval and the consulates will start functioning after necessary preparatory steps are over. Speaking to newsmen, Mr. Goncz said that his current visit will contribute to the development of Indo-Hungarian relations, better understanding and to a peaceful cooperation between the people of the two countries.

Goncz Departs for Agra 12 Apr

BK1204123291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The Hungarian president, Mr. Arpad Goncz, currently on a six-day state visit to India, left New Delhi for Agra this morning. An interservices guard of honor was given to him at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] where he was seen off by the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. Speaking to newsmen, the Hungarian president described his talks with Indian leaders as fruitful. He said he would come back at the end of his presidential term for a longer period to learn and have experience about India. Mr. Goncz will be visiting Calcutta, Darjeeling, and Bombay before leaving for home on Monday [15 April].

Visits Provinces

LD1204212991 Budapest MTI in English 1947 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Calcutta, April 12 (MTI)—On the third day of his official visit to India, the president of the Republic of Hungary Arpad Goncz and his entourage went for a tour in the provinces.

Their first stop was in Agra, where they visited the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort.

In the afternoon, the president travelled to Calcutta.

Answering questions from local journalists, he said that Eastern Europe had a chance to join the mainstream of European development. The Soviet Union must not be excluded from this process, not even in case of certain border areas, separating from her, Goncz said.

He stated that, at present, the gravest problems facing the Eastern European countries stem from the economic collapse of the Soviet Union. Therefore, it is of primary interest to Hungary to maintain stable and balanced relations with that nation.

The Friday programme of the Hungarian delegation ended with a banquet given by the governor of West Bengal in honour of President Arpad Goncz.

Assesses 'Very Successful' Visit

LD1404193991 Budapest MTI in English 1644 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Bombay, April 14 (MTI)—Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary, ended his five-day official visit to India in Bombay on Sunday. Discussing the experiences of his trip, the president told the Hungarian journalists accompanying him that, similarly to external economy, Hungarian foreign policy can only be

balanced if it relies on the region of the Pacific Ocean and Asia, as well as Europe. And India is the most significant stabilizing factor in Asia, as well as being Hungary's most important partner in the Third World. Hungary should thus support the Indian effort to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council, as it could thus lay the foundations of a future role as a world power, alongside its prestige won earlier as a "moral great power".

Summing up his visit to India, Goncz termed this very successful in all respects. He said the leading politicians of India have very thorough and authentic information about contemporary Hungarian reality. Irrespective of their party affiliation and political approach, they welcomed and showed great interest for the opening initiated by the Hungarian side. At the same time, the president warned that interest for Hungary should continuously be kept alive.

Goncz said he told his Indian negotiating partners, answering their questions, that Hungary considers the Soviet Union its major partner, and wishes to uphold friendly relations with it, as the development processes taking place in the two countries are essentially progressing in the same direction, although with differences in phase, and their economies could mutually complement each other.

On Sunday, the Hungarian delegation met with leading representatives of Indian private capital in the organization of the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Arpad Goncz and his party left for Budapest in the evening hours.

Ends Visit in Bombay, Departs

LD1404194791 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The Hungarian president's five-day official visit to India has ended in Bombay. Jozsef P. Szabo asked Arpad Goncz primarily about his economic negotiations. However, we will play back only a very little part of his reply because of the poor quality of the telephone line.

[Begin recording] [Goncz] There is visible interest among the Indian (?capitalists) in joint ventures in Eastern Europe. The large firms here are obviously aware of the strategy of needing to be present. In other words, it is the same thing I experienced in the United States that a large enterprise's interests are not to (?make a killing) within two years [words indistinct] but to be present in the market, to keep market shares [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

[Szabo] Arpad Goncz also said he hopes Hungary will be able to contract businesses for a further approximately 40 million dollars with India and that bilateral trade can be doubled within the foreseeable future. It is out of the question that we might have asked India for help because they too have serious problems because of the halt in Soviet deliveries, Goncz said. [as heard] He also said that the great cordiality with which he had been received was unproportional with the size of the country of our country. The partners were very well informed about Hungarian political and econmic life, he concluded. [end recording]

Kashmir Governor Rules Out Stepping Up Offensive

BK1204145091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 12 (AFP)—India does not intend to step up an offensive to crush the conflict in Kashmir and will keep the doors of dialogue open to Muslim secessionists, Kashmir Governor Girish Chandra Saxena said Friday.

Mr. Saxena, former chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency, unfolded what he said was New Delhi's strategy to "win the minds" of Muslims fed up with daily violence in the northern state.

He ruled out the stepping up of a campaign against the secessionists although he said New Delhi knew they were planning a major offensive in about two months.

Mr. Saxena, appointed chief administrator of federally ruled Kashmir last June, also said elections in the state could be envisaged once "informal" contacts under way with Muslim militants led to a formal dialogue.

"We will have to draw out the parameters for the talks. I think we will have to be flexible, but within certain guidelines," Mr. Saxena told the Foreign Correspondents Association here.

"Many issues are negotiable, but the situation has been complicated by armed militancy. Once we reach their minds they will understand that their demands can be sorted out and that we do not want to ignore their aspirations," he said.

India has repeatedly said it is willing to hold talks with the militants, but within the framework of the constitution and excluding separatist demands.

Mr. Saxena's remarks came a day after Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's government ruled out polls in Kashmir, citing violence by guerrillas campaigning for the secession of the Muslim-dominated region.

"We have to tell people that they can get nowhere with guns and secondly, tell them (the militants) that there is an alternative—talks," the governor said.

But while holding out an olive branch, Mr. Saxena bitterly attacked the bloody campaign saying it had brought about an administrative collapse in Kashmir and fractured its fragile tourism- and farming-based economy.

"We are acting in an environment where the administration is non-functional. Even judges are working under

fear. This is the general climate of the gun under which people are living. It is the ground reality," he said.

Some 2,000 militants were presently active in Kashmir, he said, alleging that 4,000 secessionists had crossed the border into Pakistan with plans to return with "heavy weapons" in two months time to renew the campaign.

"It is not a civil unrest, it is a proxy war," he said, accusing Pakistan's military Inter-Services Intelligence of backing the campaign, which has left at least 2,200 people dead since January 1990.

Security forces in the past few months have seized 17,000 pistols, 10,000 machine guns, 1,000 rocket launchers, 250,000 rounds of ammunition, 2.5 tonnes of explosives, and hundreds of mines, he said.

Pakistan, which holds the northern third of Kashmir, has denied the Indian allegations, but extended moral and diplomatic support for the campaign. The two countries have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

Mr. Saxena claimed that Muslim civilians were fed up with the daily violence, curfews and strikes in the Kashmir valley.

"Some 2,000 Muslim families have fled the valley and others are fed up with the militancy in its present form," Mr. Saxena said, citing frequent abductions, rapes, murders and extortions.

Cabinet To Recommend Elections Except for Kashmir

BK1504162091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] The Union Cabinet has decided to recommend to the president to notify general elections in the whole country except Jammu and Kashmir. At its meeting in New Delhi today, the cabinet approved a draft ordinance to this effect. The formal presidential notification under the Representation of the People's Act is scheduled for Friday [19 April].

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent says that the Cabinet's decision assumes significance in the context of the election commission not yet deciding the poll dates for two other states—Assam and Punjab. The commission says a decision on these two as well as Jammu and Kashmir will be taken as soon as possible.

18 'Pakistan-Trained Militants' Arrested in Kashmir

BK1504160891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces have arrested 18 Pakistan-trained militants from Srinagar city since yesterday. Some quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered. The security forces conducted search operations in Baramula District today and recovered some ammunition.

ADB Agrees To Lend Nation $150 Million

BK1604010291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1715 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 15 (AFP)—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to loan 150 million dollars to help India tackle a foreign exchange crisis compounded by steep oil price hikes during the Gulf war.

The loan will be made available to the state-owned Indian Oil Corp., which controls the marketing of oil and oil products in the country, an ADB statement said.

The loan is repayable over 20 years and will have a grace period of four years. The interest will be determined in accordance with the bank's pool-based variable lending rate system, the release said.

Last week, Japan agreed to loan 150 million dollars to India during a visit to Tokyo by Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha.

Mr. Sinha said on his return that the Japanese Government had also agreed to consider giving an additional 350 million dollars in assistance.

Commentary Views Outcome of Talks With Sri Lanka

BK1504122291 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Commentary by Professor S.D. Muni on the Indo-Sri Lankan talks for strengthening bilateral relations]

[Text] The three-day foreign secretary-level talks between India and Sri Lanka concluded on Wednesday [10 April] with a draft agreement on setting up a joint commission of the two countries may be seen as a major step toward building mutual confidence and insitutionalizing bilateral cooperation.

Under the terms of the draft agreement, the joint commission will comprise two subcommissions—one on trade, investment, and finance and the other on cultural, social, and educational matters. The subcommissions will meet in Colombo prior to the first formal session of the joint commission scheduled to be held in New Delhi before the end of this year. At the Colombo meeting of the subcommission on trade, industry, and finance, both India and Sri Lanka will come up with studies on practical programs for balanced growth in bilateral trade through new products for exports, liberalization of trade barriers, promotion of investment, and cooperation in manufactures and services. Besides expert studies, identification of potential in these fields will be facilitated by the exchange of delegations at various levels. A (?frisky) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry delegation is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka in May this year. In return, a Sri Lankan delegation for investment proportion would visit India to explore possibilities of Indian investment in the island. This would be in accordance with Sri Lanka's increased emphasis on mobilizing foreign investments.

An important aspect of mutual interest between India and Sri Lanka has been the export of tea. More often the two countries have competed with each other in this regard. To get over this difficulty, it was reiterated that fresh efforts to coordinate markets, promotion, and export of tea should be made through such arrangements that are based on mutual benefit and maximization of foreign exchange earnings for both the countries.

Under the subjects of the second subcommission, Sri Lanka has shown keen interest in a large number of Indian scholarships offered for Sri Lankan students in various subjects. The number of these scholarships raised to 400 in 1989 has been further enhanced to 500. These scholarships were of great help to young Sri Lankan students in view of the disruption in studies in educational institutions in the island. The Sri Lankan foreign secretary, Mr. Bernard Tillakaratne, welcomed the Indian proposal to set up an Indian cultural center in Colombo.

The foreign secretary-level talks should be seen as a part of serious endeavor by the two countries to pull out their bilateral relations from the shadows of mutual distrust and acrimony, resulting from the consequences of Tamil ethnic turmoil in the island. India has initiated steps in this direction which much earlier followed up by the then foreign minister, Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla's visit to Colombo in January this year. [sentence as heard] The present round of talks and the decision to set up the joint commission are the result of that visit. Accordingly, the just-concluded Delhi visit covered a much wider ground going beyond economic and cultural issues covered under the joint commission. It was mutually agreed that the two foreign secretaries would meet as often as necessary to sort out all matters of mutual interest. Even the setting up of a joint commission, according to the press release at the end of the talks, should be seen as the part of the overall efforts to strengthen bilateral relations in the widest sense.

This comprehensive objective, however, cannot be achieved until Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict is resolved. Toward that end, India has reiterated its concern that civilian casualties be avoided by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces in the ethnic war and that Colombo should seek not military but a negotiated political settlement of the Tamil problem with all the Tamil groups. To accommodate Sri Lanka's sensitivities on the issue of the proposed peace and friendship treaty between the two countries, Mr. Dubey, on the eve of the talks, expressed India's willingness to make its various provisions as reciprocal as needed. While cooperation in economic and other fields should be kept isolated from critical political issues, there is no denying the fact that such cooperation cannot be achieved without resolving the political issues. For instance, India's proposals about joint ventures to rehabilitate oil tank farm [as heard] in Tricomalee and explore oil in the Gulf of Mannar cannot make concrete progress without the resolution of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, since the region where these projects are to be implemented are affected by that conflict.

Iran

President Views 'Palestine Catastrophe' in Sermon

NC1204145291 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1120 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Arabic Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 12 April—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God and peace upon His prophet, his kin, and God's pious followers.

The Palestine catastrophe began some 50 years ago. Part of Palestinian land was occupied and many Palestinians were displaced. Despite all the difficulties, the struggle and jihad that began in the early days continue to this day. The Palestinian people, however, instead of coming closer to achieving the objective of their jihad, are drifting farther away from it. The first displaced Palestinians used to say: We will return. They worked harder to achieve their goals than the present generation has done. Some of these displaced people held on to their hopes and died in the diaspora, afflicted by a sense of injustice and a longing to return to the homeland. Others have grown old or been born in the diaspora. The past generation clung to its slogans and hopes of returning to their homeland without being able to visit it. Why is this? Why have all these efforts, hopes, and jihad not had any results? Perhaps the fullest answer is that the Palestinians, the Islamic nation, and the Arabs were not able to alter the factors that resulted in their weakness and the enemy's strength throughout this time. No results can be expected unless these factors are tackled.

The arrogant Western world was behind the creation and the survival of this malignant tree [Israel]. In the past, Britain took the lead in backing Israel, but today it is the United States that does so. In the past, they managed to gain the cooperation of the athiest Eastern bloc, and this cooperation continues. In the past, their mercenaries in the Arab and Islamic worlds paved the way for them, and they continue to play the same role today. In the past, the Islamic and Arab worlds were full of differences and hypocrisy, and this is also true today. Ever since that time, the Islamic world has been suffering from the tragedy caused by the continued influence of Eastern and Western colonialism. New horizons were opened in the past few years, but their scope remains limited.

In the past, certain parties worked to obstruct the mobilization of the Islamic force. Believing that the elements of nationalism and geography were sufficient, they left no room for Islamic thinking. Recently, however, the cry of God is great has grown loud, bringing hope inside Palestine. The mosques and places of worship have become trenches, and the Koran has become the guide. This new trend was the result of the victory and the continuation of the Islamic revolution in Iran. It is for this reason that the enemy has increased its oppressive measures in a fierce and unjust manner.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers 'Id Al-Fitr Prayers

NC1604063091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Millions of Muslim Iranians attended the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr prayers this morning in various parts of the Islamic homeland. In Tehran millions of Muslims began gathering at the great public prayer grounds, the Imam Khomeyni Mosalla', early this morning, where they performed their prayers under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani to mark the end of a month of fasting and worship. [passage omitted]

In his first sermon, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani congratulated the leader of the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic ummah, and especially the great Iranian nation, the families of martyrs, and all those treading the just path on the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr. He paid tribute to the memory of the late imam and all Islam's martyrs, and described the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr as an extremely important, constructive, and inspiring day in the life of Muslims.

Pointing to the month of religious self-discipline, worship, and efforts by Muslims to become closer to God and to achieve happiness, the 'Id al-Fitr prayer leader in Tehran said: The month of Ramadan provides an opportunity for people to accumulate priceless capital through their efforts at self-improvement for a life full of health and happiness in the remainder of the year.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that by preserving and expanding what they gained from the month of Ramadan, the Muslim Iranian ummah will this year also play a decisive role on various scenes to guarantee the continuation of the path of the Islamic Revolution.

Pointing to the auspicious Jerusalem Day ceremonies, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: In the latest divine test—that is, on Jerusalem Day—we clearly realized that our ummah has become more divine and that it has preserved the gains of the Islamic Revolution well. The massive presence of the people on the streets showed that our people are pursuing the path of God, the path of revolution, and the path of Islam as charted by the late imam and favored by God, and we should be extremely thankful for this blessing.

In his second sermon, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the indisposition of the leader of the Islamic Revolution last night, and said: Doctors advised that it would be better for him not to attend the prayers. This is why I am leading the prayers. The president stressed: There is no cause for concern. In any event, Khamene'i's health is more important to us than his presence here today.

Commenting on the important problems at home and within the world of Islam, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Domestically, we face the problem of reconstructing the damage inflicted by the imposed war and by the sinister despotic monarchy. The efforts to continue this reconstruction, make up for the mistakes of the past, and rectify damages are among the important issues inside the country on which the government and the nation are working.

He added: In the region, the Persian Gulf crisis and the oil war created important problems for our ummah, and the continued presence of foreign military forces is seen as a serious threat to the well-being of Muslims.

Iraq's domestic problems and the difficulties of the Iraqi brothers and sisters who are facing hardships in a Muslim country. [sentence as heard] Every day, thousands more oppressed and deprived people become homeless or lose their lives or health because of pressures by the Ba'thist system. The president added: The damage suffered by the two Muslim and neighboring countries of Iraq and Kuwait and the unprecedented displacement of millions of people, a large number of whom are our guests, are among the other important problems faced by the Islamic world and mankind. More than 1 million homeless, oppressed, and suffering people are the guests of this humanitarian, noble, and generous people. We should forget our earlier problems with Iraq. Of course, we never had any problems with the Iraqi people. Even during the war, the hearts of the Iraqi people were with us. This is why we should accept the Iraqi refugees as our brothers and sisters, care for them as members of our own family, and—as you have shown by your deeds—continue our efforts to save them and to solve their problems.

Second Sermon Detailed

LD1604133591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0944 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Second 'Id al-Fitr sermon delivered by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 16 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

First of all I must explain a particular point. That is, usually the esteemed leader of the revolution delivers the 'Id al-Fitr sermons. Our people have always enjoyed his eminence's sermons in the past. Last night, however, due to a slight indisposition of that lofty figure, the doctors advised his eminence not to attend the 'Id prayers in order to prevent the worsening of his eminence's slight illness.

Of course, before coming here I contaced his eminence and it became clear that his eminence is feeling better. On recommendations of this eminence physicians, his eminence nevertheless did not attend the rituals. Nothing to worry about, but his eminence's is so valuable to us that we cannot take any risks on his eminence's health. I therefore took over this task so that his eminence can recover from the slight illness. God willing, we

shall soon enjoy the blessings of his eminence's knowledge again. We beseech Almighty God to grant his eminence full and speedy recovery. [passage omitted]

Important global issues are usually raised during the 'Id al-Fitr prayer sermons and our ummah become familiar with the difficulties and the strong points or weak points of their own society and that of the Islamic world. I, therefore, draw your attention to the important problems that the Islamic world is facing today:

Inside the country, we are facing reconstruction of the ruins left by the imposed war and the ruins we inherited from the sinister and monstrous monarchy regime. Moving toward reconstruction and remedy and rebuilding ruins is one of the important internal problems of our country. This is a path currently pursued by our ummah and our government.

In our region: The problem that befell our ummah during the Persian Gulf crisis and the oil war is the crucial issue of our region. The presence of the foreign military forces, which pose a serious threat to our health and prosperity, is one the calamities we are facing today. The next one is the internal problem in Iraq, where our brothers and sisters in our neighboring Islamic country are beset with so many tragedies. Thousands of these innocent, deprived, oppressed, and suffering people are either abandoning their homes daily, or losing their health and their lives as a result of oppression and tyranny of the Ba'thist regime. The unlimited destruction of our two Muslim neighboring countries, Iraq and Kuwait, will bring a long-term suffering to this innocent people and has led to an unprecedented homelessness of millions of people, a large number of whom are our guests. This is one of the crucial problems of the Islamic world, or rather the world of Humanity. More than 1 million homeless, wandering bereaved, and suffering individuals are the guests of you, the philanthropic, noble and generous people. What God expects from you is to be generous and forgiving.

With respect to the people who have come to us, we must forget our past problems with Iraq. Of course, we have never had any problem with the people. Even during the war, we knew that the Iraqi people's heart was with us. We must receive them like our own brothers and sisters; and we must treat them as dear guests, the members of our own family whom we have been expecting to receive. We must look after them. This is something you demonstrated in practice. The same this morning. The same this morning—when we were driving along the streets, the piles of gifts donated by our people to assist the refugees were visible. This movement has been going on for several days. God willing, we shall continue our efforts to save them and to solve their problems.

Inside our own country, we have victims of floods and the earthquake. God willing, our ummah, the same as before, will never forget them. [passage omitted]. These difficulties, however, should not make us despondent. These can be God's blessings, too. This is basically the divine tradition, which makes the people accustomed to difficulties by testing them. It is through these incidents that we come close to God. These incidents open the door to the arena of jihad. These incidents open the door to the area of generosity. How can the countless people, who come through the divine test proudly by donating their assets or lives along these paths, become closer to God without involvement in these arenas?

This is a divine tradition, whereby the prophets, the saints, lofty personalities, and noble men find arenas for jihad and for rebuilding themselves and for improving themselves and coming closer to God. They spend their short life challenging problems and then forever enjoy the honor of being close to God and the divine celestial kingdom. God willing, we shall come out of these test arenas with pride and we shall come closer to God. Muslim people are made through these incidents and the Islamic ummah becomes as hard as steel. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni Resigns From Hajj Supervisor's Post

LD1404214391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, in reply to a letter from Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, has graciously agreed to his resignation from the post of supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims to the house of God [Melck]. The text of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni's letter and the reply of the esteemed leader are as follows:

In His exalted name. To His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the revolution, may his blessings continue. Greetings and regards. I am grateful to God for the favor of your eminence's kindness, when you appointed me as your representative to serve the pilgrims to the holy house of God. After receiving my instructions, I pursued the task with great enthusiasm and made progress in some fields, too. At a meeting with my honorable mother today, however, I encountered a problem. I reached the conclusion that my dear leader is the only individual who I should consult on this matter, because your eminence has always been kind to the family of the imam, may his dust be sanctified. My sick mother earnestly ordered me to abandon the idea of this trip so as to stay beside her. I, therefore request that, if your eminence will allow me, I will give priority to my noble mother's wish over my new responsibility. I request that I be allowed to give up this spiritual trip and the service that I cherished, for the sake of my bereaved mother. Of course I deem it my duty to remain, as always, at the service of the revolution, Islam, and the esteemed leader. May God grant you a long life full of blessings.

[Signed] Ahmad Khomeyni, 12 April

Here is the text of the esteemed leader's reply: In His Exalted Name. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, may you have a long life. I regret to hear of the circumstances which have made it difficult for Your Excellency to accept the position relating to the Hajj pilgrimage, particularly in view of the importance of the Hajj and the short time left. Even greater urgent efforts will be necessary in order to prepare for this immense divine duty. Because I believe, however, that consideration for the health of the honorable wife of his holiness the imam, may God bless his soul, is essential, and since I have the greatest respect for her and and we are all sincerely indebted to her, I accept your resignation.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 14 April

Foreign Ministry Protests To Iraq on Aircraft

LD1404172691 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry on Sunday protested to Iraq's charge d'affaires here against the figure given by Iraqi officials on the number of Iraqi aircraft stranded in Iran. It also termed the figures as "untrue."

The Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir recently claimed that Iraq had 148 military and civilian aircraft in Iran, while the correct figure as stated by Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was 22.

A Foreign Ministry official today warned the Iraqi charge d'affaires that such erroneous claims raised by Iraqi officials would mislead the world public opinion.

He said the claims were against the friendly attitude of the Islamic Republic towards Iraq and against the humanitarian aid given by Tehran to Baghdad under hard conditions over the past few months. The Iraqi charge d'affaires was also asked to follow up the arrest of three staffers of the fisheries organization in Khuzestan who had gone to al-Basrah to deliver humanitarian assistance to Iraqi people.

Envoy to UN Protests Iraq's Border Incursions

LD1504231191 Tehran IRNA in English 2209 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] United Nations (New York), April 15, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to the U.N. today informed the U.N. chief of fresh border violations and occupation of Iranian territory by Iraq.

"Yesterday, 14 April 1991, one Iraqi brigade crossed the international border and made an incursion into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Northern Qasr-e Shirin, at Tang-e Havan (Sutak post) across from Tazehabad. The Iraqi brigade occupied an area three kilometres deep inside the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran," said Kamal Kharrazi in his letter to Perez de Cuellar.

He said the Foreign Ministry has "strongly protested to the government of Iraq" regarding this "dangerous violation". Kharrazi calling for an "immediate withdrawal" of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory, said Iraq will be held "solely responsible for both losses of life, material damages and all repercussions of this aggressive act."

He also advised the Iraqi Government "to find a solution other than creation of an external enemy to face up with her internal turmoil." Kharazi further said that some of Baghdad's provocative acts against Iran over the past three weeks included shelling of Iranian territory, concentration of military personnel at the international borders and "extending support to certain elements to launch military operations against the Islamic Republic."

Yazdi Demands War Crimes Trial for Saddam

LD1404182291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1700 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] During a meeting of the Judiciary Branch today, Mr. Yazdi, head of the Judiciary Branch, spoke about the humanitarian approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ruthless and inhumane treatment of the Iraqi people and refugees by the Iraqi regime. He criticized the indifference of the international organization, which has produced this tragic situation. He said: Saddam's war crimes are countless, and one day he must face trial in a court similar to the Nuremberg court.

Asserting that Iraq's repetition of what is said by the Americans and their declared figures and statistics will not serve the interests of anyone in the region, Mr. Yazdi stated: The announcement of such figures will have no effect on the Islamic Republic. Iraqi authorities of the Iraqi Government should study and measure the impact of their remarks more carefully, otherwise they will create more difficulties for themselves.

In conclusion, the head of the Judiciary Branch thanked the Muslim and fasting people of Iran for their presence on the Jerusalem Day marches.

Paper Denounces West's Silence on Iraqi 'Massacre'

NC1504123391 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 31 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Only Iraqi Nation Can Decide Future Government"]

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, who was in Tehran in the current week, attended a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart Velayati.

Commenting on the trend of democracy in Iraq, de Michelis said that the establishment of democracy would not materialize as long as Saddam is in power.

De Michelis' remarks are fundamental and accurate because the Ba'th party in Iraq is based on absolute dictatorship and owing to the structure of the system of government sham political reforms would not work.

The question here is how seriously one should take de Michelis' remarks? Is the immediate removal of the person of Saddam Husayn among the West's plans? Should a distinction be drawn between Western Europe and American approaches? Or would the West prefer a military coup to the popular uprising to oust Saddam from power?

This and similar questions have occupied the minds of the political observers and politicians.

One thing is certain and that is that Westerners, especially Americans, since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2nd August up to the outbreak of war on 16th January, were calling on the Iraqi people to rise against the dictatorial regime and topple Saddam and it was understood that the West was ready to throw its full support behind a popular uprising. Following the military victory of the U.S.-led allied forces over Iraq, which was then followed by the ongoing uprisings in the southern cities when rapidly spread to Kurdish areas in northern Iraq, the West not only refused any support but some of the Western media apparatus have been utterly silent vis-a-vis the massacre of the Iraqi Muslim people by the Baghdad regime and try to portray the situation inside Iraq as an old story like that of Afghanistan and Lebanon.

The support of Western governments of along with the regional countries in the uprising of the Iraqi nation can help establish democracy and set up a popular system of government in that country.

Government 'Could Help' With Hostage Release

NC1404122591 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 14 (AFP)—A senior Iranian official said the fate of Western hostages in Lebanon was not in Iran's hands but that it could help in their release if specific steps were taken after pressure is put on Israel.

The English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES on Sunday quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykholeslam as pledging that Iran "could provide some assistance in getting them released through the spiritual influence we have on certain groups in Lebanon."

Iran has repeatedly demanded the release of Lebanese and Palestinians held in Israeli jails, as well as freedom for a noted Shiite cleric kidnapped by Israeli forces in South Lebanon, in return for help in securing the Westerners' release.

Twelve Westerners, including six Americans and three Britons, are being held in Lebanon by groups close to Iran.

"The captors are correct when they demand that the Moslems taken hostage by Israel should be freed first," Mr. Sheykholeslam insisted, adding that Israeli troops had seized 1,000 Lebanese and Palestinians during Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Turning to efforts by the United States to resolve the Palestinian problem, the deputy foreign minister said intentions by Secretary of State James Baker were insincere.

He told the paper, which is close to the government, that Washington was taking advantage of the situation in the Middle East and "wants to solve this vital Islamic problem through a regional conference."

Last week Mr. Baker toured the region to garner support for a regional peace conference under U.S. and Soviet auspices but got conditional support for the plan.

"Such a conference will accomplish nothing but amount to another Camp David agreement which was not acceptable to the Moslem ummah (nation)," Mr. Sheykholeslam said. He was referring to the 1979 peace accords concluded between Egypt and Israel under U.S. patronage, which led most Arab states to sever their ties with Cairo.

'Thousands' of Refugees Facing Sickness, Death

LD1204172491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees settled in Dasht-e Shilar and behind the Savuji border strip of Marivan district are facing sickness and death as a result of unfavorable climatic conditions and heavy rainfall. According to the refugees arriving in Iran, over 30 more of these refugees comprising mainly women and children died as a result of cold and hunger during last night and today. The spread of infectious and contagious diseases threatens the lives of thousands more of these refugees who are lying on damp ground without any blankets and adequate clothing.

More Refugees Arrive in Bakhtaran; Aid Provided

LD1204191691 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1700 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] The arrival of the Iraqi refugees to our Islamic homeland continued yesterday and last night via the country's western borders. In the course of this exodus, thousands of Muslim and oppressed Iraqi people entered Iran through six border posts in Bakhtaran Province, in their flight from the barbaric attacks of the Ba'ath regime. According to our reporters in the town of Paveh and Javanrud, amid highly unfavorable climatic conditions and very heavy rainfull last night, 30,000 Iraqi refugees entered our Islamic homeland via Shaykh-Seleh border, and 5,000 via Nowsud border in extremely deplorable conditions. Another group died before reaching the borders of the Islamic Republic as a result of extreme cold, starvation, and falling in the valleys around Arbat road.

The arrival of the afflicted Iraqi people in our Islamic homeland is taking place while tens of thousands more women, children, and aged Iraqis are making their way toward the Iraniah borders in fear of the atrocious

attacks of the Ba'thist regime. The dispatch of relief to the Iraqi refugees, meanwhile, is continuing on a wide scale and so far, hundreds of thousands of them have been settled in campsites in Bakhtaran Province.

An official from Bakhtaran Province's crisis headquarters told our reporter: At present over 150 general practitioners and specialists, 35 of whom are from among the Iraqi refugees, have begun treating the sick and injured Iraqi refugees in the hospitals and clinics in the province's border areas, and in Paveh's hospital alone, there have been 150 operations so far. He added: So far, over 6,000 children under the age of two have entered Bakhtaran Province; all of them were vaccinated against children's diseases and meningitis, upon arrival.

As part of the relief dispatch to the Iraqi refugees, dozens of trucks and many C-130 aircraft of the Islamic Revolution of Iran's Army, transfer every day the aid donated by our compatriots from various parts of our country to Bakhtaran Province. The aid is immediately carried to the Iraqi refugee camps.

Interior Minister Gives Numbers of Iraqi Refugees

LD1404183991 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—The interior minister Sunday said if the Baghdad regime increases its pressure on its people, the number of Iraqi refugees fleeing to Iran would amount to 1.5 million.

"The number of refugees who have so far entered West Azerbaijan, Kordestan and Bakhtaran Provinces is estimated at over 900,000 but the real figure can be more shocking," Hojat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri told a press conference here.

Of this number, Nuri said, 400,000 are residing in West Azerbaijan, 400,000 in Bakhtaran, 100,000 in Kordestan and 40,000 in Khuzestan. The interior minister also said the amount of relief aid dispatched by foreign countries was too little to cope with the plight of the refugees.

Nuri denied Iran's involvement in Iraq's internal affairs, saying: "Accusing Iran and other countries neighboring Iraq of involvement in its internal affairs is aimed at overshadowing the uprising of a nation which has been under pressure for a long time."

"The simplest thing we could do was to close our border to the refugees in order not to have so many difficulties, but we sheltered the refugees because of Islamic and humanitarian reasons and because we saw a regime determined to destroy its people," he said.

Nuri also recalled the issues relevant to reconstruction of war-damaged areas, homelessness of hundreds of thousands of quake and flood stricken people in northern and southeastern Iran, and a large number of Afghan refugees now residing in Iran. "We are eagerly hosting the Iraqi refugees solely on humanitarian and Islamic grounds while other countries even with one-tenth of our problems would never have helped refugees."

Tehran Radio Appeals for More Refugee Aid

NC1404060791

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0425 GMT on 14 April in its feature "Hello, Good Morning!" carries a five-minute announcement on new groups of Iraqi refugees who have entered Iran. The announcer says these refugees "have left their hearths and homes, their homeland, and have come to partake of our hospitality and selflessness." The announcer says that "words cannot express the depth of this disaster. One must go and see how these refugees, who barely survived the war, are now grappling with another struggle of life and death. Please help the Iraqi refugees; they are human beings who have walked many kilometers in hopes of receiving our assistance. Help them for the sake of enlisting divine recompense, and show them that our hearts are brimming with the sentiments of love, friendship, and care for humanity."

Refugee Center Calls For Increased Domestic Aid

NC1404072591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] The Muslim people of our country are sending more aid for the Iraqi refugees. The number of Iraqi refugees exceeds 800,000, and more assistance is needed. The Headquarters for Iraqi Refugee Affairs, set up in the Interior Ministry, has said that the following items are urgently needed: Tents, blankets, rugs, carpets, cooking gas, canned goods and other foodstuffs, powdered milk, and heating equipment.

The headquarters expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by our people and called on all ministries, organizations, and Islamic Revolution institutions to contact them before dispatching any aid to the areas where the Iraqi refugees have gathered and to refrain from sending any aid directly.

Our correspondents from the various centers of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the western provinces of the country report that new camps that provide shelter for the refugees have been completed. Many refugees have been taken to these camps and provided with basic necessities.

These hundreds of thousands of people who are suffering from immense physical weakness due to hunger, low morale, and various ailments need more assistance from the selfless people of our country and an international mobilization of aid in order to help them.

President, FRG's Kohl Discuss Refugee Issue

LD1504173391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Mr. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, discussed the Iraqi refugees and ways of helping them with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a telephone conversation this afternoon. During the conversation our country's president said about a million Iraqi refugees have come to Iran, and hundreds of thousands more are across the border and will enter Iran gradually. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran is extremely moved by the refugees situation. Many of them are still without tents and shelter. This makes providing relief and facilities for them more difficult.

He added that hospitals in five provinces are full of the Iraqi ill and wounded. All Iranian families are involved in this humanitarian deed in one way or another. But we are not satisfied with it. The president thanked Mr. Kohl for his attention, and described the talks between German Foreign Minister Genscher and Mr. Velayati as fruitful.

Expressing his dissatisfaction about the delay by other countries and international organizations in helping the Iraqi refugees, the president said governments that speedily dispatched military facilities for war were expected to provide humanitarian facilities for those oppressed people. Then, having learned about the situation, Mr. Kohl said: You can rest assured that we are not indifferent to human conditions. Declaring that a German delegation would soon travel to Iran to review the refugees' situation, he said Germany plans to dispatch aid to the Iraqi refugees daily.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets UN Refugee Commissioner

LD1404171191 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata here today expressed surprise at the crossing to Iran of More than 700,000 Iraqi refugees over a period of less than four days. She said the international organizations have not acted as responsibly as they should have towards the development.

In a meeting with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today she praised the efforts of Iran for accepting arriving Iraqi refugees and for having offered them all possible help.

President Rafsanjani said if Iran were able to provide for every necesary needs of the refugees then foreign aids would be unneeded. He added during the past [word indistinct] month a number of catastrophes have hit Iran among them earthquakes, torrential rains which sucked much of the resources previously available to the Iranian Government.

Rafsanjani added that Iran had agreed to combat certain problems solely "on humanitarian reasons."

He expressed hope that in the future responsible international refugee organizations will be able to rush aids to needy human beings when they need it, since "the loss of the innumerable human beings due to the unpreparedness of such organizations will be an irreparable damage" to nations.

Velayati, FRG's Genscher Discuss Iraqi Refugees

LD1504085291 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a telephone conversation with his German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher discussed the situation of the Iraqi refugees in Iran. Hailing Iran's acceptance of the refugees and its humanitarian assistance, Genscher stressed the need for further cooperation to assist the refugees.

He said that a German delegation is to be dispatched to Iran shortly to investigate situation of the refugees and ways to help them. Velayati briefed his German counterpart on Iran's humanitarian aids to the refugees, problems facing them and said Iran's borders are open to the refugees. He also welcomed the dispatch of the German delegation.

Meanwhile, the number of Iraqi refugees who have arrived in Iran since the their exodus started two weeks ago has exceeded 900,000, said the Interior Ministry Monday [15 April]. The Ministry said that due to continued attacks of the Ba'athist forces on people, the Muslim Iraqi people are still fleeing to Iran forming long queues behind the Iran-Iraq border waiting to enter Iran. Meanwhile, six new refugee camps are to be set up in Kohgilouyeh-Bouyer Ahmad Province lodging 5,000 refugees.

Velayati Discusses Refugees With Austria's Mock

NC1604071591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati and Austrian Foreign Minister Mr. Mock discussed the current situation of the Iraqi refugees who are heading for Iran's borders in a telephone conversation last night.

Mr. Mock said that an Austrian delegation which inspected the conditions of the Iraqi refugees in Iran will submit its report to the Austrian parliament soon, after which Austria will send assistance to the Iraqi refugees. The Austrian foreign minister also said that in his opinion international assistance should be extended to all refugees, and that the plight of the Iraqi refugees in the south of Iran should not be overlooked.

Velayati, Greek Foreign Minister Discuss Refugees

LD1504173891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] In a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Velayati today, the Greek foreign minister expressed his concern about the Iraqi people having been made homeless and thanked Iran for her efforts and good treatment of the Iraqi refugees.

He described the humanitarian actions of our country's authorities as extremely valuable and admirable. He declared his country's readiness to send more aid to the refugees. He stressed that serious, all-round efforts should be made by the international community to improve the situation. He also invited our country's foreign minister to visit Greece as soon as possible. The invitation was accepted.

Foreign Ministry, EC Discuss Iraqi Refugees

LD1504180391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The special EC delegation, which is in Tehran to review the relief operations to the Iraqi refugees, met and conferred with Mr. Va'ezi, the Foreign Ministry under secretary today. At the meeting Mr. (Pratt), the representative of the EC commission, thanked Iran for her active cooperation in receiving and looking after the Iraqi refugees. He stressed the necessity for the international community to pay attention to the Iraqi refugee issue.

Mr. Va'ezi described the latest developments concerning the Iraqi refugees. He stressed the importance of international efforts to put pressure on the Iraqi regime to prevent an increase in the number of the refugees. He expressed the hope that the international organizations would strive to bring the refugees back to their homes.

Referring to the fact that the aid afforded so far is miniscule in proportion to the depth of the problems facing the refugees, he welcomed the EC's action to help the Iraqi refugees. [passage omitted]

Minister: Outside Refugee Aid 'Very Insignificant'

LD1404112991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Dr. Malekzadeh, the minister of health, treatment, and medical training, in an interview with reporters this morning, outlined the initiatives taken by that ministry to help the Iraqi refugees. While describing their health and hygiene conditions, he said: Until now, despite the shortage of the necessary equipment, 200,000 patients have been treated as outpatients, 6,400 patients have been admitted, and 1,500 major operations and 500 childbirths have been recorded. Also, so far 250 doctors and 500 health and hygiene specialists have been dispatched to the region. He further remarked on the dispatch of 120 ambulances, 250,000 cans of powdered milk, five tonnes of hygiene and disinfecting solutions, 200 tonnes of medicine, as well as 150,000 vaccinations given to the Iraqi refugees.

Dr. Malekzadeh added: These dear ones are in urgent need of aid, in particular, foreign aid which has been very insignificant so far. We expect the international and health organizations to give further assistance.

The minister of health, treatment, and medical training renumerated the medical and hygiene needs of the refugees as medicine, vaccines, disinfectants, disposable medical equipment, and especially field hospitals. He named diarrhea, as the most widespread sickness in those parts and announced: Since the residents from northern Iraq were not innoculated, the possibility exists of the spread of some contagious disease among the children.

Security Council Meets, Discusses Refugees

LD1304170991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The Supreme National Security Council held a session this afternoon chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by council members, political advisers, and high-ranking military commanders.

During the meeting, the latest developments in the region were discussed, particularly the situation of the Iraqi refugees in Iran. It was agreed that there must be a serious international move, coordinated with the Iraqi Government, to bring about the security necessary for the return of the refugees.

The number of Iraqi refugees in Iran exceeds 800,000. The Interior Ministry crisis headquarters announced the figures today and thanked the self-sacrificing people for their donations. [passage omitted]

Ten Refugees Die in Shiler Valley

LD1504110291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Ten more Iraqi refugees died in the Shiler Valley yesterday due to sickness, exhaustion, and malnutrition. The IRNA correspondent who witnessed the burial of the 10 Iraqi refugees adds that the huge gathering of the refugees in this region has increased to such an extent that it is creating practical difficulties for relief workers.

Qom To Settle 50,000 Iraqi Refugees

LD1504130591 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Qom, April 15, IRNA—The headquarters in charge of the affairs of Iraqi refugees at the Ministry of the Interior today decided to help settle 50,000 of Iraqi refugees in this holy city. It said that according to the decision taken at the meeting the encampent will be built in Qom (145 km south of Tehran) in the near future.

The bloodbath let loose by Saddam Husayn in Iraq following his humiliating retreat from Kuwait, has forced over 900,000 Iraqis to seek refuge in Iran, and the figure is expected to cross the 1.5 million mark. In addition, Iran is hosting another half a million Iraqi refugees, mostly Arabs, who sought refuge from Ba'thist terror during Saddam's eight year war against the Islamic republic.

Settlement of Arriving Kurdish Refugees Described

LD1504203691 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Sanandaj (Kordestan), April 15, IRNA—About 12,000 Iraqi refugees arriving in Iran through the border outposts in Baneh and Marivan have been lodged in emcampments in the towns of Qorveh and Dehgolan of Kordestan province. The two encampments combined can lodge 30,000. Qorveh governor Hassanzadeh told IRNA today that another two emcampments with a combined capacity of 20,000 are being built near the town.

He said 3,850 of the arriving Iraqis needed special medical help and were offered various types of medical services. He added that some needed surgical operations who were sent to hospitals in Sanandaj and Qorveh. The official noted that for the time being more tents, blankets, food stuff and clothing are needed for the refugees in Qorveh.

Upwards of 900,000 Iraqis have sought refuge in Iran over the past weeks, following the general massacres ordered by the unpopular Ba'thist regime in its bid to quell the mass uprising in Iraq. Saddam Husayn's regime has reportedly butchered over half a million Iraqis in southern Iraq alone, following its humiliating defeat at the hands of the American-led coalition.

Editorial on Need for International Refugee Aid

NC1604103091 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Fleeing Iraqis in Urgent Need of Assistance"]

[Text] Tens of thousands of Iraqi refugees are waiting to enter Iranian territory and it is predicted that the numbers will increase in the coming days.

In the wake of a severe crushing of the popular force in southern as well as northern Iraq by the Baghdad regime, large groups of people, including women and children, have fled to desert and mountainous areas to save their lives in the savage massacre.

Today these defenseless people are faced with numerous dangers, especially in the Kurdish north of Iraq.

In the meantime, Turkey and France have called for the convening a Security Council session to study and investigate the situation in that country.

The political scrambling is taking place while the U.S. administration has adopted acute silence vis-a-vis massacres in Iraq and, under the guise of following a policy of non-interference in Iraq's internal affairs, has made no reaction to the slaughter of Iraq's innocent people.

Notwithstanding that, under public and media pressure, U.S. Under-Secretary of State John Kelley is to meet six Iraqi strugglers, representing the Iraqi opposition. Political observers believe that since the U.S. does not see its interested elements among the opposition, no tangible results are expected of the talks.

Under the circumstances, it must be protested that the Americans, who seriously encouraged the Iraqi people to rise and topple the government of President Saddam Husayn, are now refusing to extend any assistance to the hundreds of thousands of refugees who are subject to starvation and the cold of the mountains.

In the meantime, the International Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are expected to meet their responsibilities and come to the aid of host countries. The (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council nations, enjoying huge financial resources, should also shoulder its [as published] responsibility at this sensitive time and rush food and medical assistance to the countries who are giving sanctuary to the refugees.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as has been proved in the last decade, is prepared to entertain its Iraqi Muslim brothers and sisters and the Iranian government should welcome any humanitarian assistance extended by other countries to render better services to those fleeing from the slaughter.

Paper Blames West for Refugees' Plight

LD1304173191 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 13 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—An English daily reflecting on the reign of terror in neighbouring Iraq, said today that the burden of the century's worst human tragedy does not rest on the Saddam Husayn regime alone, but also on its former adversary, the West.

"Saddam is not the only criminal involved in the plight of the fleeing Iraqis. The author of 'Desert Storm' is also deeply implicated," said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial.

The paper analysed the hypocrisy of the American-led coalition towards the popular uprising in Iraq, which has resulted in the massacre of almost a million people, and the turning of 3 million others into refugees in neighbouring states, mostly in Iran.

"In point of fact, Saddam Husayn, yesterday George Bush's Hitler, seems the only person the Americans and the Western allies are truly interested in saving throughout the length and breadth of Iraq. Strange positioning indeed for the so-called enemies of totalitarianism and supporters of democracy," commented KAYHAN. It said the Iraqi terror for the West was certainly not of a military nature and never is.

"Yesterday they were angered with Saddam because he had swallowed a British colonial creation. Today they are tacitly supporting him because he represents the antithesis of free choice in this country and be sure that free choice in Iraq is more feared by the Americans, Europe and the Persian Gulf princely families than was the threat of chemical and anthrax weapons," it noted.

The people to suffer are of course the Iraqi people, said the daily and feared for the safety of the rest of the Iraqi population in view of the formal U.N. ceasefire between the two parties to the recent war in the Persian Gulf.

"Ironically, Saddam's latest depopulation project received a big boost Thursday with the finalization of a permanent cease-fire..." It means that "Saddam will be free to deploy his 200 odd war planes against dissidents throughout Iraq," said KAYHAN.

Paper: Keep Iraqi Planes While Saddam Rules

LD1404115591 Tehran IRNA in English 1047 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—Tehran should never return the Iraqi military planes defected to Iran during the Persian Gulf war to Baghdad as long as the person of Saddam rules, the editorial in 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' suggested Sunday.

Referring to Saddam Husayn's crimes in Iraq and suppression of the popular uprising against his regime, it wrote "the planes belong to the Iraqi people and they should not be used as tools in the hands of Saddam for massacring defenseless civilians."

It also reiterated Saddam's disrespect for religious values and shelling of the holy shrines in Iraq, "an act that even the infidel Western forces did not commit during their war with Iraq." Pointing that Saddam Husayn is not a stable person, it said "one day he makes peace and the next day he tears his peace treaty and starts a war" as in the case of 1975 accord between Iran and Iraq.

Recently he again "violated the peace agreement between the two countries and on March 26, his forces crossed into Iranian territory at the Khanaqin-Khusrawi-yh border point and attacked Iranian forces, leading to the death and injury of a number of Iranian border guards—a clear act of aggression and violation of international relations—which proves Saddam's unstable behavior."

"Therefore the possibility of his adventurism against Iran and deployment of the airplanes (now in Iran) for bombarding Iranian cities and economic centers, should not be ruled out if Tehran ever decides to return the planes to Baghdad under a mad man's rule."

Planes Overfly Tehran To Prepare for Maneuvers

LD1504085691 Tehran IRNA in English 0746 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—Several jet fighters appeared in the sky of capital Monday morning followed by anti-aircraft sounds which caused panic among the residents. In a telephone contact with the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Air Force, IRNA learned that the Iranian fighter planes are getting ready for the Army Day maneuvers, April 18 and the flights of Monday morning and the sounds heard are part of the preparations and there is no reason for panic.

Helicopter Crash Involves 3 French Nationals

LD1404125191 Tehran IRNA in English 1123 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Sardasht, W. Azarbaijan Prov., April 14, IRNA—A Chinook helicopter carrying a nine-member relief team among them three French nationals crashed while landing in Sardasht Sunday morning with all those on board injured. All those on board are reportedly in satisfactory condition, the doctors said adding that few have serious injuries, IRNA reported from the scene.

The helicopter which belonged to the Havaniruz (air support for the Ground Forces) of the Iranian Army was carrying the French donated relief supplies to the Iraqi refugees in northwestern Iran. The French nationals included two doctors, and a relief worker.

There were also five Iranians on board the helicopter, two pilots, two flight engineers and a Red Crescent Society official. Investigations are underway to determine the cause of the crash. However, there are indications that the helicopter crashed after its rotor hit a hill upon landing.

*French, British Petrochemical Contract Signed

91P40224A Paris AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 91 p 31

[Text] The Iranian Petrochemical Company, the French Speichim Company, and the British Davy McKee Company have signed a $29 million contract to carry out the necessary work for a petrochemical project.

A joint statement by the French and Iranian companies announced that the contract concerns building a plant to manufacture alcohols through a technology offered by

the Davy McKee Company and a [natural] gas plant within a petrochemical complex in central Iran. The two plants, which will be built in mid-1994, will produce canning materials for foodstuffs. Discussions began on this contract in March last year.

Pakistan

Spokesman Reiterates Desire for Kashmir Solution

BK1604053291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan will make efforts to draw attention of international community toward the plight of Kashmiris and will seek support of the UN Security Council's concerned resolutions to settle the Kashmir problem. In a statement issued in Islamabad, a Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized that this is in accordance with the Shimla Agreement and it reflects Pakistan's desire for good neighborly relations with India and establishing durable peace. He reiterated that Pakistan raised this problem, the most important issue between the two countries, during the four rounds of talks at the foreign secretary level. It is obvious that relations between the two countries cannot be normalized until serious efforts are made to solve the problem.

The spokesman said that the Pakistani Government rejects the Indian foreign minister's alleged remarks on Kashmir that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. He said that the UN Security Council's related resolutions, which have been accepted by Pakistan and India, give clear ruling on the border dispute between the countries. The resolutions say that the decision on annexation of Jammu and Kashmir will be made following a plebiscite under UN supervision and no bargaining has been made in the Shimla Agreement in this connection.

Spokesman on Iraqi Human Rights Violations

BK1404041291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan has expressed deep concern over the plight of those Iraqi citizens who are being constrained to flee in large numbers toward the neighboring countries Iran and Turkey and seek asylum there. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that Pakistan opposes interference in the internal affairs of any country. Pakistan feels especially that the territorial integrity of the fraternal Muslim country, Iraq, should be totally honored. But, at the same time, Pakistan cannot conceal its feelings toward the human rights violations in war-ravaged Iraq. The spokesman said Pakistan has always opposed human rights violations in all parts of the world and has appealed to Iraq to honor the human rights of its people, including the protection of their life and property as well as their dignity and honor. He further said Pakistan understands the difficulties of Iran and Turkey as it has provided asylum to more than 3 million Afghan refugees in the past 10 years. The spokesman said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has already issued orders to send relief materials to Iran and Turkey meant for the Iraqi refugees. He stressed the need for more international assistance to these fraternal countries to help deal with this critical situation.

President Lauds Shari'ah Enforcement Bill

BK1604044091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1835 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Islamabad, April 15 (AFP)—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Monday hailed a government bill to enforce Islamic Shariah law as a historic development for Pakistan and urged the parliament to adopt it unanimously.

In a nationally broadcast message on the eve of the EID festival Tuesday marking the end of the fasting month, the president described the bill as a "special gift" to the people and said the process of setting up an Islamic welfare society had begun.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, in a similar message, asked the people to "pray for the success of our mission to enforce the law of Allah in Pakistan."

Pakistan's main religious parties have attacked the bill tabled by the government in the National Assembly on Thursday [11 April], claiming that it seeks to protect the "usury-based" economic system.

In a statement issued Saturday [13 April], an eight party front of Islamic parties attacked the bill because it would take three or more years to eliminate usury, or the lending of money with interest.

The government bill seeks to declare the Moslem holy book, the Koran and the Sunnah (traditions) of the Prophet Mohammad the supreme law of the land.

It lays out measures to run the economy and the educational system on Islamic principles. A commission has been proposed to oversee the elimination of usury.

The National Assembly has set up a special committee to study the bill, which will become law after it is passed by both the lower and the upper houses.

Paper Comments on Sharif's Islamic Law Package

BK1204144091 Lahore THE NATION in English 12 Apr 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Chartering a New Course"]

[Text] Although the centre-piece in the package of proposed legislation outlined by the Prime Minister in the Joint Parliamentary Session, is a Constitutional amendment to make Koran and Sunnah [practices of the Prophet] supreme law of the land, the proposals to establish a Baitul Mal [public fund], Munsif [subordinate] Courts, reform of police, revision of educational curricula, etc., all add up to a fairly impressive agenda for his government. Except for the legislation that would

make it difficult for the police to harass the innocent, not everything proposed by him is new. Nevertheless, none of these measures had been conceived at the national level and on such a large scale. His idea of the Baitul Mal, for example, had been tried at the provincial level and the idea of the Munsif Courts is similar to that of General Zia's idea of Qazi Courts, but the difference this time is that these are intended to be implemented with all the moral and material backing of the Federal Government. Following his vigorous drive to liberalise the economy this should be acknowledged as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's second major attempt at restructuring the social order. And the vow to create an Islamic welfare state which is responsive to the imperatives of social justice for its citizens, comes handy in the wake of misgivings that promotion of free enterprise may accentuate social inequalities.

Reactions to the PM's [prime minister's] speech have ranged from euphoric to cautious to sceptical. But it needs to be realised that the Prime Minister could not have placed all the nuts and bolts of the machinery he is devising on the table of the House in a wide-ranging speech of this kind. That stage will come when the actual legislation comes before the Parliment in the form of Bills. Qazi Hussain Ahmad's view that the Sharia [Islamic Law] Bill has gone by the board, for example, may or may not be true. Also, given the fairly clear Islamic character of the Constitution, whether an amendment will really make it more Islamic is a question which can only be answered, when the taxt of the proposed amendment becomes available. Nevertheless, the commitment to make Koran and Sunnah as the supreme law of the land not withstanding, any amendment in the Constitution must also conform to the ideals of the Pakistan Movement and the perceptions of the country's founding fathers. It goes without saying the neither Quaid-i-Azam [Muhammad Ali Jinnah] nor Allama Iqbal had visualised Pakistan as a theocratic state. And no one has the right to tamper with the democratic character of the Constitution. The Parliament must under all circumstances remain the supreme law-making body and the courts continue to function as the custodians of the Constitution. There has never been any quarrel in the country about Islamisation, but nevertheless its interpretations could be as poles apart as medieval authoritarianism being practised by quite a few Muslim countries and an open enlightened and democratic society as envisaged by our founding fathers. Hopefully, the Prime Minister, who himself owes his position to the democratic process, does not entertain the idea of allowing a group of persons, however, pious and acknowledgeable, to sit in judgement as a supra-parliament. Islam, which has outlived epoch-making changes in the world because of its dynamic character, should come to the rescue of democracy in Pakistan and not be used as a lever to promote retrogressive tendencies.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Policy on Chemical Weapons

BK1404154091 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Apr 91 p 6

[Editorial: "The Chemical Weapons Octupus"]

[Text] Although reports of the use of chemical weapons by the occupation forces in Indian-held Kashmir await confirmation it is bad enough that various media sources have alleged that this is being done. It were these reports to which Science and Technology Minister Hamid Nasir Chatha was referring Thursday in the National Assembly. India, if the reports are true, will be the third country to have entered what can safely be termed the chemical weapons club. Iraq, of course, became the second when it used them against its own Kurdish population and the first and foremost was the great mentor of the two, the almighty United States of America, when it initiated the barbaric practice in Vietnam.

Having reduced the lush green landscape of Vietnam to a desolate wasteland by the use of defluents which reduced the opulent forests of that country to a desert land, the US then proceeded to supply these diabolical weapons to its one-time protege Iraq, to enable it to 'crush' the Islamic Revolution of Iran, something nauseatingly repugnant to the Americans. While the Iranian forces and the dissident Kurds were being mercilessly subjected to the use of chemical weapons by Saddam Hussayn, the US was content, to borrow a term, [to] 'fiddle' while the Iraqi dictator had his will. It would be useless to say that nobody condemned the use of chemical weapons by the US itself in Vietnam because, to all intents and purposes, this 'giant' among nations has always arbitrarily arrogated to itself the position of sole judge and executioner in international affairs. Introspection and soul-searching have always been weak points with US administrations.

Now, because it suits the United States eminently to do so, its voice is most strident in condemning the use of Saddam Husayn's use of chemical weapons against his own dissident population. When it suited the US, it was all right that Saddam should use chemical weapons against the Kurds. Now, when he is giving a repeat performance, it is highly condemnable! Whatever the logic behind the whole thing, to all but the US, it is nothing but perverse. One can imagine with what glee the US must be hearing reports of the use of chemical weapons against the freedom fighters by the Indians in the part of Kashmir occupied by them. No doubt an American condemnation will ultimately be forthcoming but, knowing the US as we do, it will most undoubtedly be more for form's sake than anything else. It is equally clear that the US will never admit that other 'humanists' are only playing 'follow my leader' when they subject dissident populations to the use of chemical weapons. Since it was the US which set the example, it is only right that it now take definite steps to see that this odious form of warfare is internationally outlawed.

Sri Lanka

7 Children Among 17 Villagers Killed by LTTE

BK1504114891 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0959 GMT 15 Apr 91

["OANA/POOL item]

[Text] Colombo, APR 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—Seven children and three women were among 17 innocent villagers brutally shot and hacked to death in a New Year's night massacre in the little farming colony of Ethimalai on the border of the Ampara and Moneragala Districts in eastern Sri Lanka. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that a group of 15-20 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists armed with guns, swords and knives had stormed into Ethimalai at 2200 hours (local time) Sunday, torched six farmers cottages and shot and hacked to death seven men, three women and seven children whose ages ranged from five to 14 years and were fast asleep after having celebrated the Sinhala and Hindu new year.

Special Task Force commandos on receiving information of the massacre, rushed to Ethimalai, but the killers had withdrawn. A villager who was leading the commandos to Ethimalai had his leg blown off when he stepped on a pressue mine laid by the terrorists before they left.

A massive manhunt has been launched by the security forces to track down the terrorists responsible for the heinous crime. They are believed to be hiding in the thick jungles surrounding the scene of the massacre. In heightened LTTE violence on Sinhala and Hindu New Year's Day, the terrorists also killed five soldiers and wounded five in an attack on a security force patrol at Gajabahapura, Weli Oya in the Trincomalee District. Terrorist casualties are now known. Six LTTE cadres were killed by government troops in an encounter at a point between Kalaputhram and Sardapura in Trincomalee. One soldier was also killed in the incident. LTTE attacks on the security forces forward lines at Pemaduwa and Yakawewa in Vavuniya were repulsed Sunday. There were no casualties among the security forces. The 2500 Tamil civilians who were being detained at the LTTE barrier at Thandikulam have been finally allowed to leave, but have been forced to turn back and return to the north, instead of proceeding south as they wanted to. A curfew was imposed in the district of Mannar, except Rmannar Island, from 0600 hours (local time).

France Reportedly Refuses 18 Sri Lankans Asylum

BK1204123491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Text] Colombo, April 12 (AFP)—French authorities have turned down requests by 18 Sri Lankans seeking political asylum in France, French diplomats here said Friday.

They said the men would be sent home Sunday [14 April], but no further details were immediately available.

The Sri Lankans tried to enter France, reportedly without proper travel documents, about five days ago and since then have been on a hunger strike at Charles de Gaulle Airport in a bid to obtain a rapid decision on their request for asylum.